美味しんぼ

4

雁屋 哲
花咲アキラ

装丁／海野一雄
カバー・フォト／峰村　孝

美味しんぼ

BIG COMICS

4 食卓の広がり

作・雁屋　哲
画・花咲アキラ

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◆
小学館
BC 754

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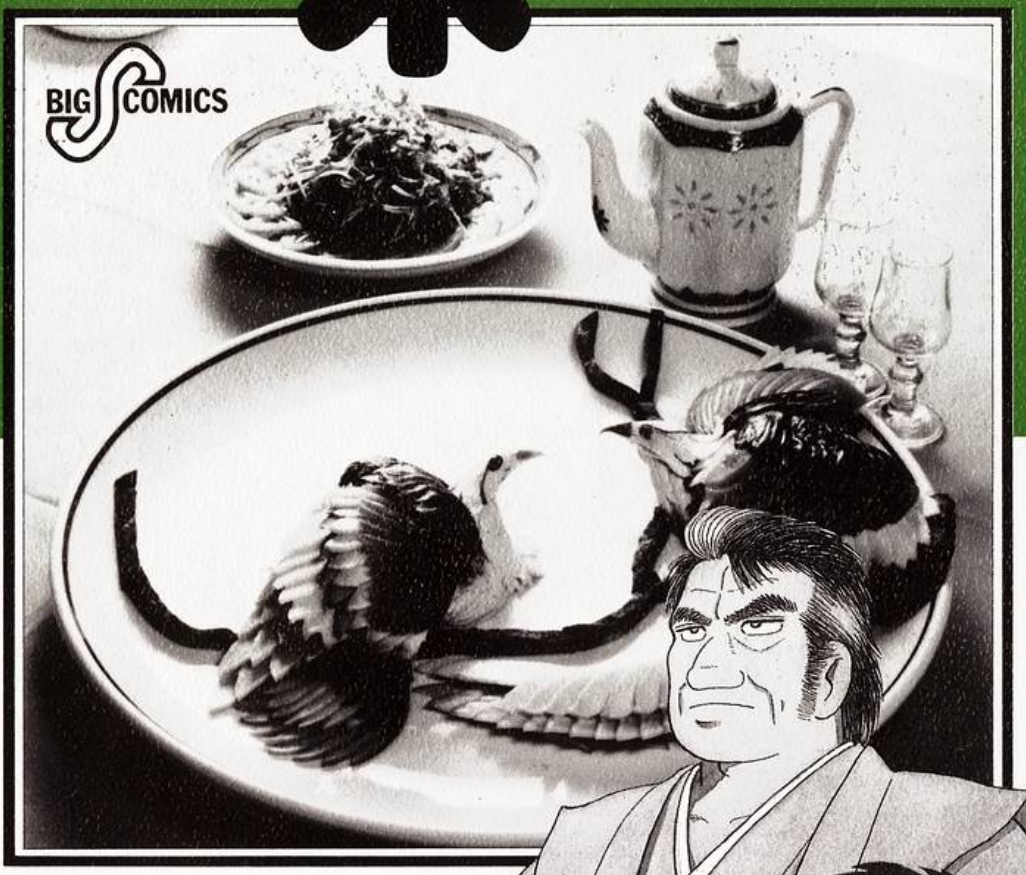
美味しんぼ

BIG COMICS



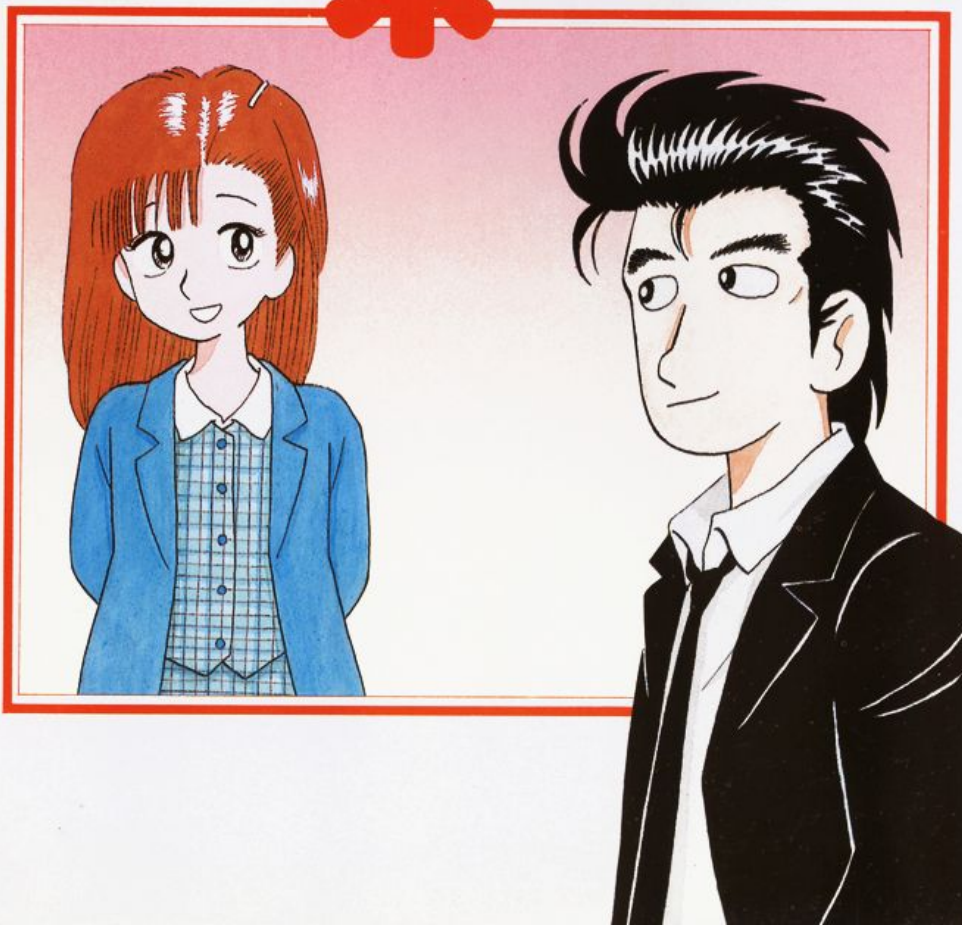
4 食卓の広がり

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

4 食卓の広がり

■中央・鴛鴦大拼盤(鴛鴦を型どった冷菜のオードブル)、
左上・宮廷薬香生菜(香り野菜のサラダ)〈調理・龍の子〉

美味(おい)しんぼ



美味しんぼ

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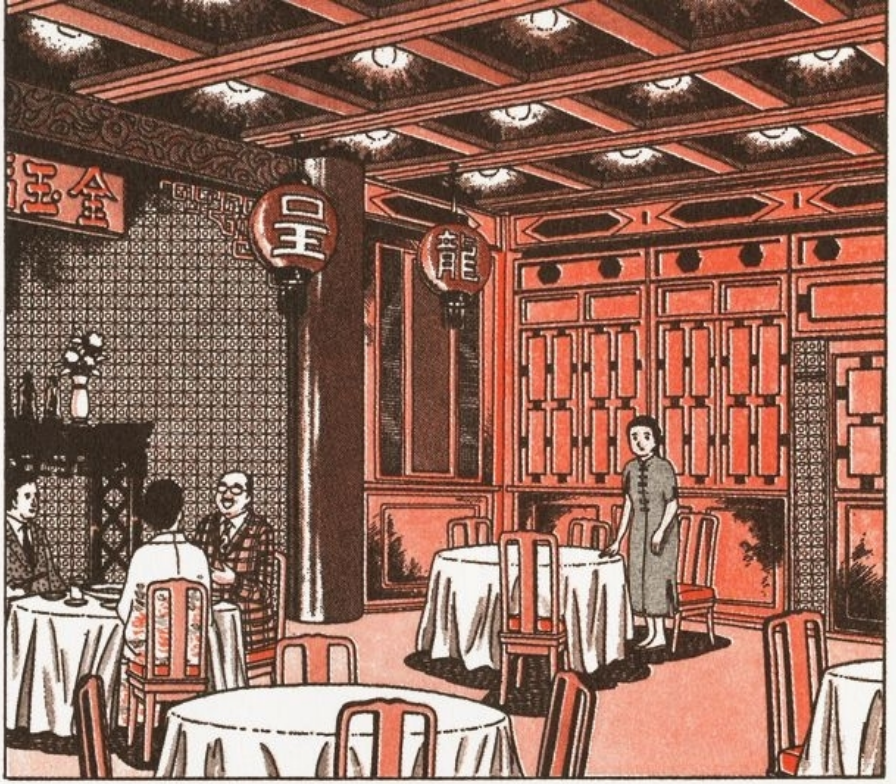
第1話
直火の威力

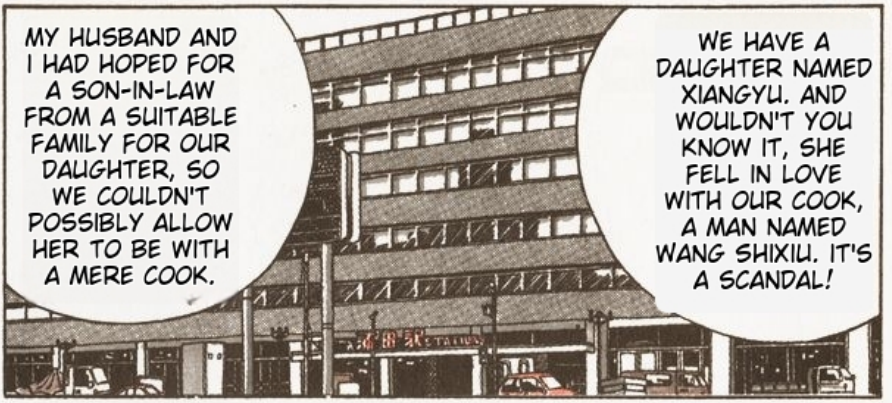


MRS. FANGLAN SONG, THE WIFE OF YOKOHAMA'S MILLIONAIRE MR. KAIDEKI ZHOU...

THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE. I MUST THANK YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY DURING OUR LAST VISIT.

I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR TAKING THE TIME TO COME HERE TODAY, DESPITE YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE.

HEY, HAVE YOU READ 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4?

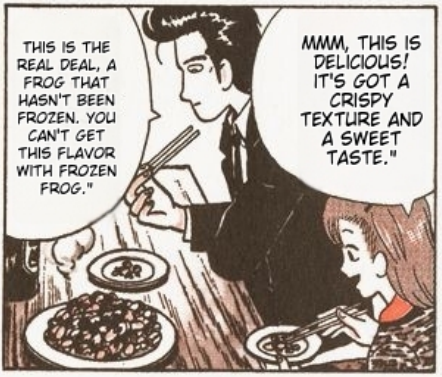

MY HUSBAND AND I HAD HOPED FOR A SON-IN-LAW FROM A SUITABLE FAMILY FOR OUR DAUGHTER, SO WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY ALLOW HER TO BE WITH A MERE COOK.
WE HAVE A DAUGHTER NAMED XIANGYU. AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT, SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH OUR COOK, A MAN NAMED WANG SHIXIU. IT'S A SCANDAL!

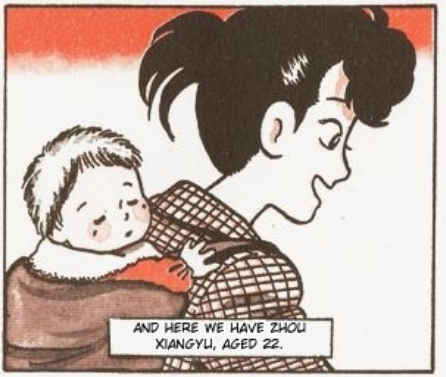
大王飯店

THE NIGHT WE SCOLDED OUR DAUGHTER AND STERNLY FORBADE HER FROM EVER SEEING WANG SHIXIU AGAIN, SHE SNUCK OUT OF THE HOUSE AND DISAPPEARED WITH HIM.

HALF A YEAR AFTER RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME, WE FINALLY TRACED THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE TWO. IT TURNS OUT THAT WANG SHIXIU AND OUR DAUGHTER HAD OPENED A CHINESE RESTAURANT IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF KAMATA.

HEY, HAVE YOU READ 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4?





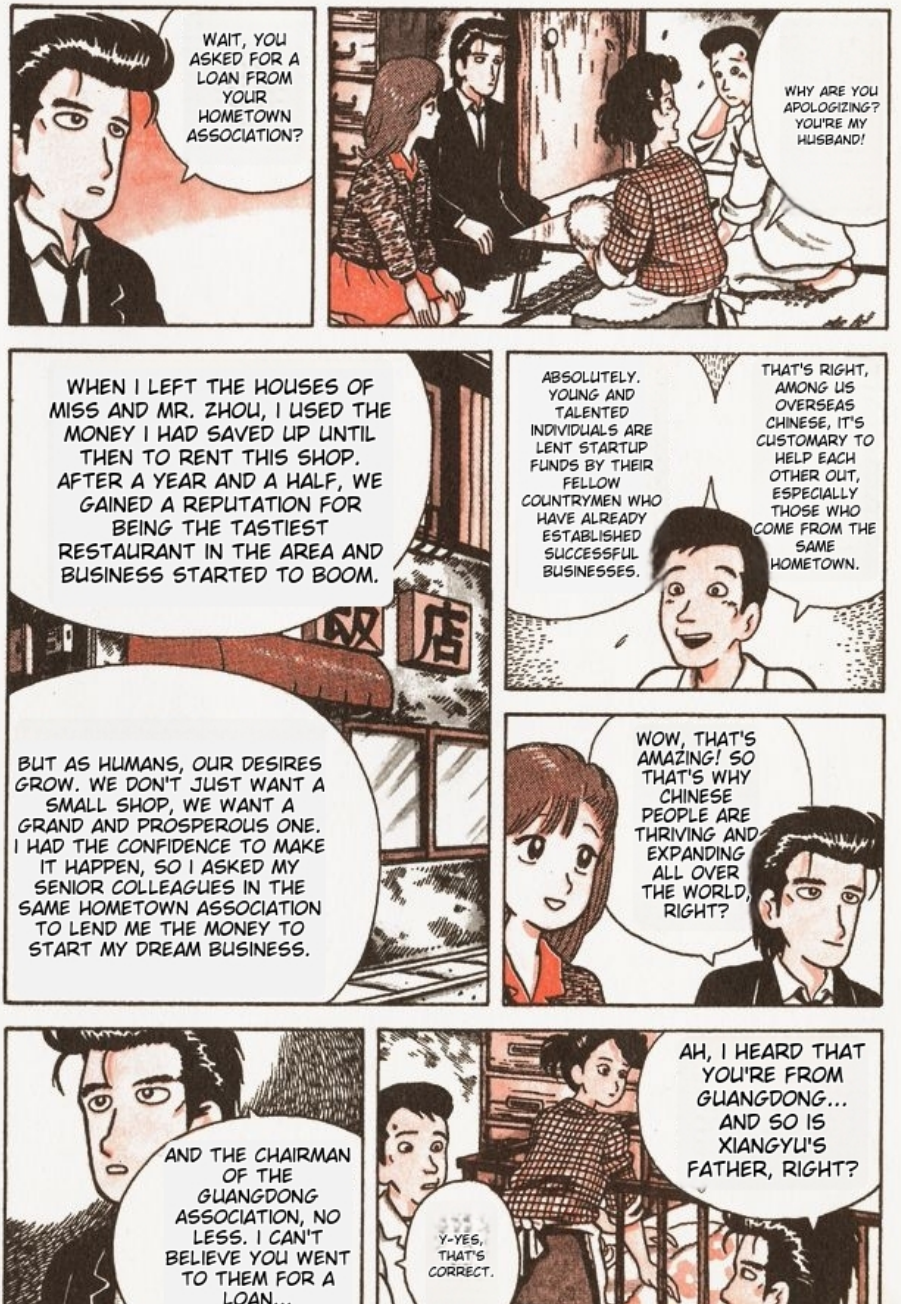
CAN YOU MAKE ME A SERVING OF FRIED RICE, PLEASE?
MR. YAMAOKA...
PARDON ME... YES, I'LL MAKE YOU SOME FRIED RICE,'
THE FRAGRANCE AND FLAVOR OF THESE VEGETABLES ARE STRONGER THAN THOSE IN JAPAN, AND THEY'RE PERFECT FOR STIR-FRYING,"
HOWEVER...
MMM, THIS TASTES AMAZING!

FRIED RICE?

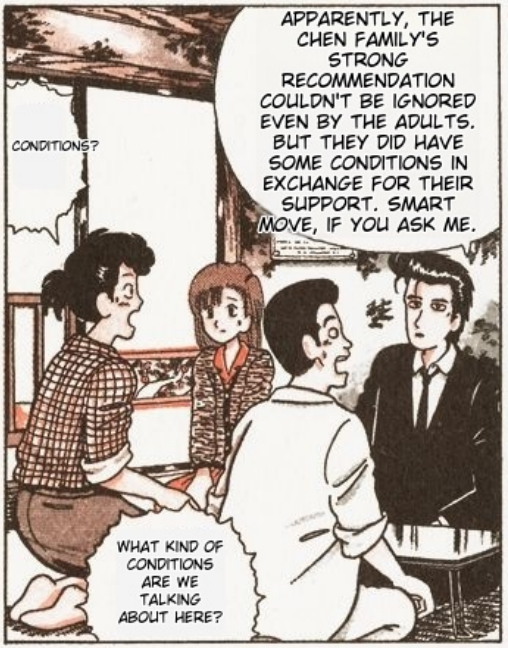
HEY, HAVE YOU READ 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4?

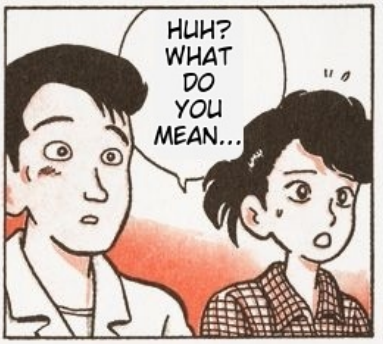
YAMAOKA-SAN!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU'VE BEEN CRITICIZING MY COOKING SINCE EARLIER...
MY MOTHER!!
WHAT?!
SHE'S BEEN VERY WORRIED, YOU KNOW.
WE WERE ASKED BY XIANGYU'S MOTHER TO COME HERE.
YOUR MOTHER IS ON YOUR AND EVEN HIS SIDE. SHE'S EVEN TRYING TO GET YOUR FATHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR RELATIONSHIP.
HUH?
SHE IS? REALLY?
AH, YES... ABOUT THE MISTRESS...
WAIT, XIANGYU!
PLEASE LEAVE, I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ZHOU FAMILY ANYMORE!!

OH, DELICIOUS SHINBO 4.


WAIT, YOU ASKED FOR A LOAN FROM YOUR HOMETOWN ASSOCIATION?
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING? YOU'RE MY HUSBAND!
WHEN I LEFT THE HOUSES OF MISS AND MR. ZHOU, I USED THE MONEY I HAD SAVED UP UNTIL THEN TO RENT THIS SHOP. AFTER A YEAR AND A HALF, WE GAINED A REPUTATION FOR BEING THE TASTIEST RESTAURANT IN THE AREA AND BUSINESS STARTED TO BOOM.
ABSOLUTELY. YOUNG AND TALENTED INDIVIDUALS ARE LENT STARTUP FUNDS BY THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN WHO HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES.
THAT'S RIGHT, AMONG US OVERSEAS CHINESE, IT'S CUSTOMARY TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO COME FROM THE SAME HOMETOWN.
BUT AS HUMANS, OUR DESIRES GROW. WE DON'T JUST WANT A SMALL SHOP, WE WANT A GRAND AND PROSPEROUS ONE. I HAD THE CONFIDENCE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, SO I ASKED MY SENIOR COLLEAGUES IN THE SAME HOMETOWN ASSOCIATION TO LEND ME THE MONEY TO START MY DREAM BUSINESS.
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING! SO THAT'S WHY CHINESE PEOPLE ARE THRIVING AND EXPANDING ALL OVER THE WORLD, RIGHT?
AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GUANGDONG ASSOCIATION, NO LESS. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WENT TO THEM FOR A LOAN...
Y-YES, THAT'S CORRECT.
AH, I HEARD THAT YOU'RE FROM GUANGDONG... AND SO IS XIANGYU'S FATHER, RIGHT?

HEY, HAVE YOU READ 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4?





I SAID TO STOP CALLING HIM 'MASTER'!
AH...UHH...
IS THE MASTER REALLY THAT ANGRY...?
I SEE WHAT FATHER'S TRYING TO DO. HE'S TRYING TO FIND FAULT WITH WANG'S COOKING SO HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A LOAN.
YAMOKA-SAN, PLEASE TELL ME, HOW WAS THE COOKING?
AND THEN, YAMAOKA-SAN TRIED WANG'S COOKING...
THAT'S WHY KOGAMA-SAN'S MOTHER ASKED US TO TRY MR. WANG'S COOKING AND REPORT BACK TO HER...
THE PROBLEM IS THE WAY HE USES TERMS LIKE 'MISSUS' AND 'MASTER' TO REFER TO HIS OWN WIFE AND HER FATHER.
THE PROBLEM IS WITH MR. WANG'S ATTITUDE.
I ALWAYS TELL MY HUSBAND TO STOP DOING THAT, BUT WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH THE TASTE OF THE FOOD?

LET ME PARTICIPATE IN THE EXAM HELD BY THE ORGANIZERS!
EITHER WAY, SOLVING MATTERS OF THE HEART ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE WITH MERE TRICKS AND TECHNIQUES...
BUT THAT'S JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION... BECAUSE THE TASTE OF THE DISHES MADE BY WANG-SAN GOES BEYOND THE STANDARD, THE ORGANIZERS MIGHT NOT BE TOO STRICT WITH IT...
EVEN IF OTHERS MAY NOT NOTICE, ADULTS MIGHT CATCH ON.
WELL, AS LONG AS ZHOU IS THERE.
HEY, WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? THAT THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE SERVANT MENTALITY?
ABSOLUTELY!

中華街
横浜大飯店
楽園
珠々飯店

ZHOU KAI TOKU.
CHEN LUYONG.

MY LADY, I APOLOGIZE!
WANG, IT'S OKAY. IF MY DAUGHTER IS HAPPY, THEN THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME.

MOTHER... I'M SORRY FOR BEING SELFISH!

LET'S BEGIN THEN.
Y-YES, UNDERSTOOD!!

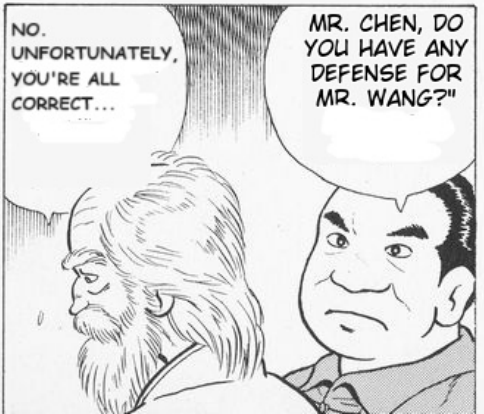
BRING US THE ASSORTED APPETIZERS."
I DON'T SEE ANY ISSUES WITH FINANCING THIS."
HMM, THIS IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?"

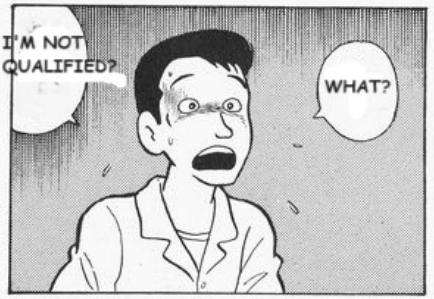
OH, DELICIOUS SHINBO 4.

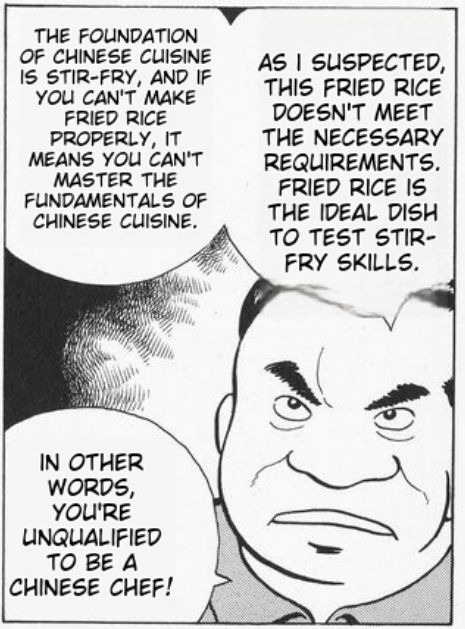
WELL, WHAT DO YOU ALL THINK?"
THIS IS NOT CRISPY AT ALL, IT'S STICKY AND INEDIBLE.
HUH?

HMPH, THE TRUTH IS REVEALED! WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE, FRIED RICE?!"

FRIED RICE SHOULD HAVE GRAINS OF RICE THAT DON'T STICK TOGETHER, EACH ONE FULLY ABSORBING THE OIL AND CRISPY TO THE TOUCH."
EACH GRAIN OF RICE MUST BE THOROUGHLY ROASTED OVER THE FIRE AND FRAGRANT. OTHERWISE, IT'S NOT FRIED RICE, IT'S SOME WESTERN-STYLE PILAF.


NO. UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'RE ALL CORRECT...
MR. CHEN, DO YOU HAVE ANY DEFENSE FOR MR. WANG?"


I'M NOT QUALIFIED?
WHAT?

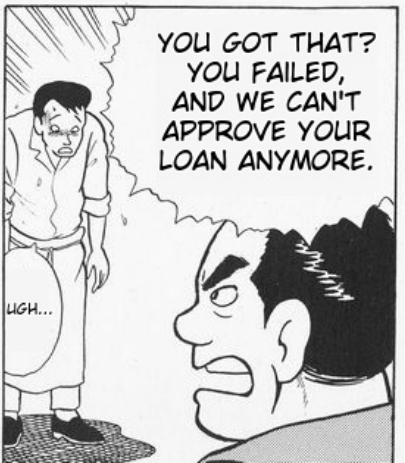

THE FOUNDATION OF CHINESE CUISINE IS STIR-FRY, AND IF YOU CAN'T MAKE FRIED RICE PROPERLY, IT MEANS YOU CAN'T MASTER THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CHINESE CUISINE.
AS I SUSPECTED, THIS FRIED RICE DOESN'T MEET THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS. FRIED RICE IS THE IDEAL DISH TO TEST STIR-FRY SKILLS.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE UNQUALIFIED TO BE A CHINESE CHEF!

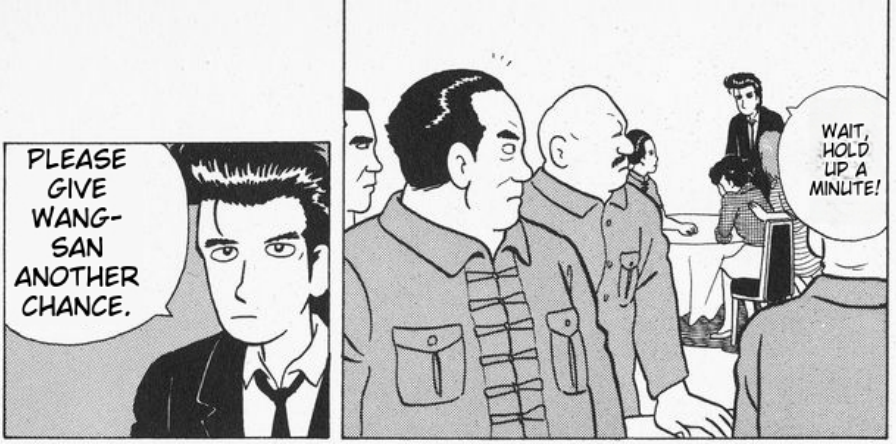
SO, THAT'S WHY MR. YAMAOKA MADE MR. WANG COOK FRIED RICE THAT TIME...
W-WHAT...?

YOU FAILED.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE OTHER DISHES SEEM TO BE AVERAGE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING, AND NOW I KNOW IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS FRIED RICE.
WE CAN'T LEND MONEY TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
IF YOU CAN'T MASTER THE BASICS OF CHINESE CUISINE, YOU CAN'T RUN A DECENT RESTAURANT.

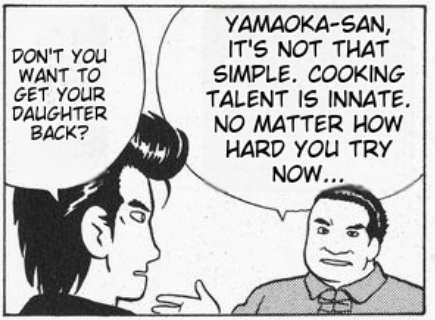
THAT CONCLUDES OUR MEETING TODAY. THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR YOUR HARD WORK AS ORGANIZERS.

UH-HUH...


YOU GOT THAT? YOU FAILED, AND WE CAN'T APPROVE YOUR LOAN ANYMORE.
UGH...


PLEASE GIVE WANG-SAN ANOTHER CHANCE.
WAIT, HOLD UP A MINUTE!

YOU CAN'T MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL WITHOUT WANG-SAN AND XIANGYU-SAN'S CONSENT!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!
THAT'S SO RUDE!
NO, NOT AT ALL!


DON'T YOU WANT TO GET YOUR DAUGHTER BACK?
YAMAOKA-SAN, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. COOKING TALENT IS INNATE. NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY NOW...

GIVE WANG-SAN ANOTHER CHANCE. AND IF HE STILL FAILS, YOU BREAK UP WITH XIANGYU-SAN, AND SHE GOES BACK TO HER PARENTS. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

WILL YOU FIGHT AGAIN OR JUST SMOLDER AWAY IN A SMALL SHOP AT THE END OF THE STREET FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
IF WE CHANGE THE BUSINESS, THAT'S FINE TOO. BUT CAN WANG-SAN REALLY DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT? YOU LOVE COOKING MORE THAN ANYTHING, DON'T YOU?

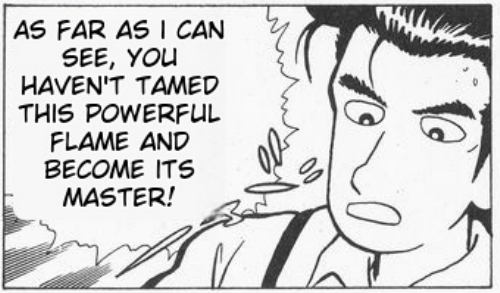
WANG-SAN, YOU'VE BEEN BRANDED AS AN INCOMPETENT CHEF IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. IF YOU BACK DOWN NOW, YOU'LL NEVER BE RECOGNIZED IN THE CHINESE COMMUNITY AGAIN.

IT'S OKAY FOR YOU, BUT I WANT TO STAY THE WAY I AM, EVEN IF IT MEANS RUNNING A SMALL AND POOR SHOP...
UH, UGH...

YOU CAN'T TAKE BACK WORDS ONCE THEY'VE LEFT YOUR LIPS. LET'S TRY THE TEST ANOTHER DAY.
ALRIGHT...
PLEASE LET ME TRY AGAIN. IF I FAIL THIS TIME, I'LL RETURN THE YOUNG LADY TO YOU!
YOU!

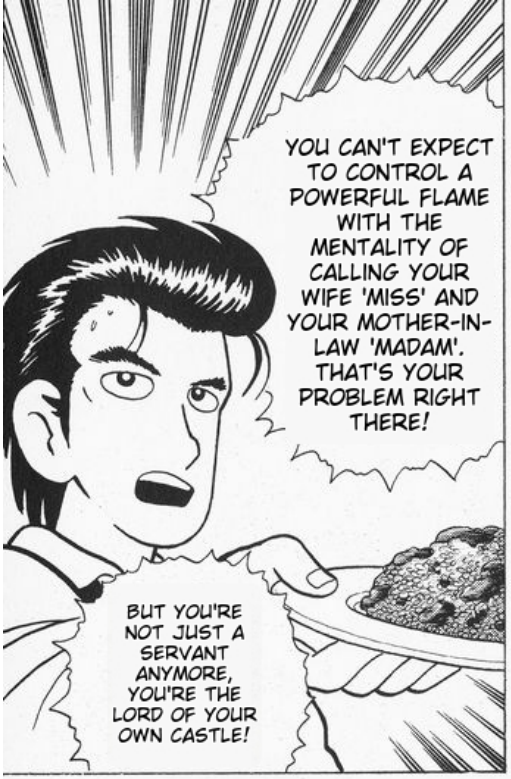
大王飯店
EVEN XIANGYU SAID SHE WAS FINE THE WAY SHE WAS...
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO, MR. YAMAOKA? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
LET'S GO.

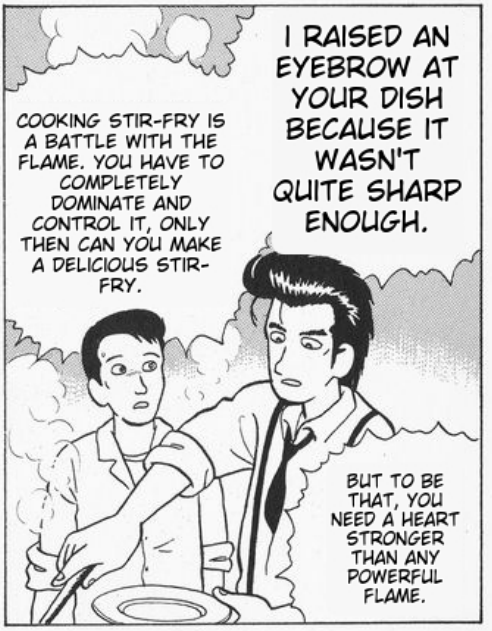
THE RICE FLIES UP INTO THE AIR.
THE SIZE OF HIS MOVEMENTS IS INCOMPARABLE TO THAT OF WANG-SAN'S...


AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, YOU HAVEN'T TAMED THIS POWERFUL FLAME AND BECOME ITS MASTER!

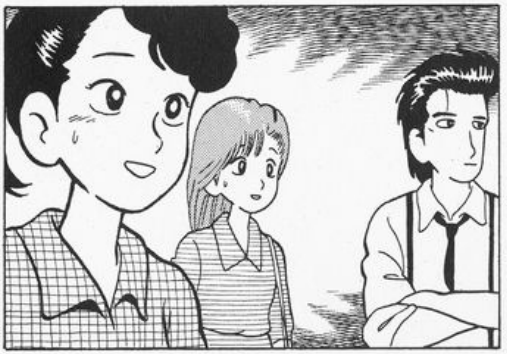
I SEE, I SEE...

AND THAT'S HOW YOU GET THAT CRISPY, SAVORY TASTE WHEN THE EXCESS OIL IS BURNT OFF. YOU CAN'T MAKE A REAL FRIED RICE JUST BY STIRRING IT AROUND IN THE POT!
THE RICE THROWN UP FROM THE POT PASSES THROUGH THE FLAMES IN MID-AIR, AND AT THAT MOMENT, IT IS DIRECTLY SCORCHED BY THE FLAMES!


YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO CONTROL A POWERFUL FLAME WITH THE MENTALITY OF CALLING YOUR WIFE 'MISS' AND YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW 'MADAM'. THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM RIGHT THERE!
BUT YOU'RE NOT JUST A SERVANT ANYMORE, YOU'RE THE LORD OF YOUR OWN CASTLE!

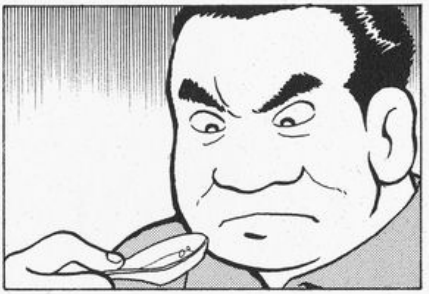

I RAISED AN EYEBROW AT YOUR DISH BECAUSE IT WASN'T QUITE SHARP ENOUGH.
COOKING STIR-FRY IS A BATTLE WITH THE FLAME. YOU HAVE TO COMPLETELY DOMINATE AND CONTROL IT, ONLY THEN CAN YOU MAKE A DELICIOUS STIR-FRY.
BUT TO BE THAT, YOU NEED A HEART STRONGER THAN ANY POWERFUL FLAME.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN CONTROL THE FLAME!
OH, I SEE... I'VE BEEN SO TIMID AND SCARED, MY HEART HAS BEEN SHRINKING. IT'S NO WONDER MY SKILLS HAVE BEEN SHRINKING TOO.



OKAY, OKAY...

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...



WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S A LOST CAUSE AFTER ALL...
UH-HUH...

カチャ

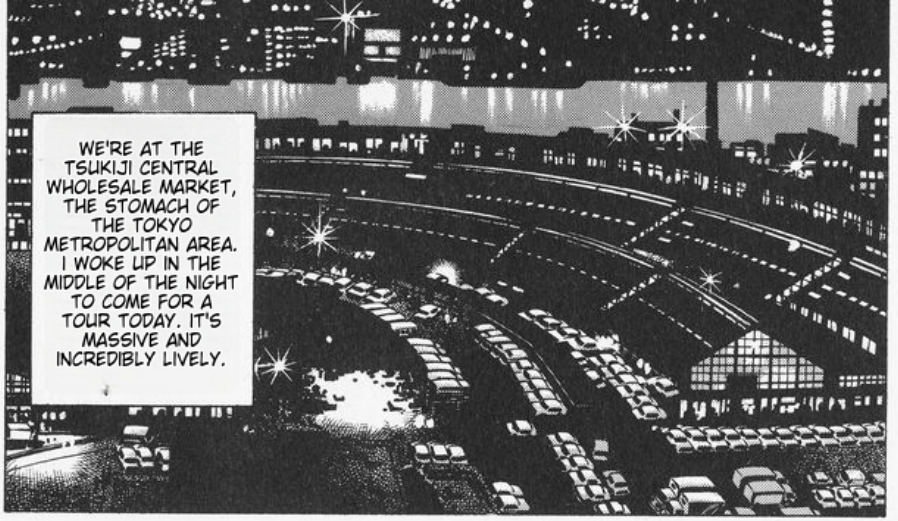
I'M GOING TO LEND THIS MAN 30 MILLION YEN.

HEY, HAVE YOU READ 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4?

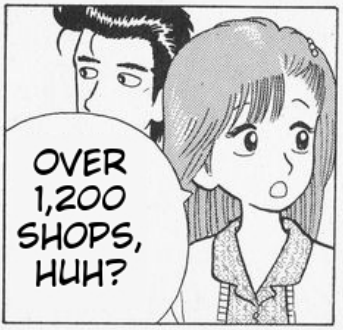
OH NO, YOU'RE MY SON-IN-LAW... WOULD IT BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO SEE MY GRANDCHILD'S FACE?"
WANG...
DADDY!!"
WELCOME, FATHER-IN-LAW!"
MR. YAMAOKA...
BUT FEAR NOT, I'LL SURELY GET MY REVENGE."
I'VE BEEN BESTED BY THE JAPANESE OVER CHINESE CUISINE NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE NOW!"

第2話

女の華

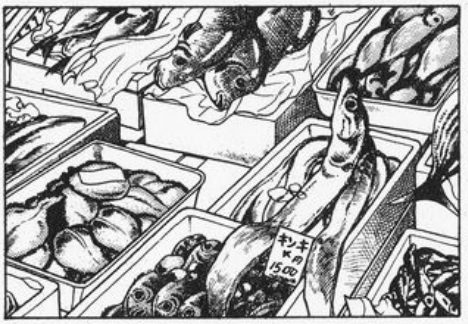

WE'RE AT THE TSUKIJI CENTRAL WHOLESALE MARKET, THE STOMACH OF THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN AREA. I WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO COME FOR A TOUR TODAY. IT'S MASSIVE AND INCREDIBLY LIVELY.

WOW, THERE ARE SO MANY FISH MARKETS HERE...


OVER 1,200 SHOPS, HUH?

THAT'S RIGHT, THESE ARE THE 'INTERMEDIATE WHOLESALERS' LINED UP LIKE THIS.
THERE ARE SEVEN 'WHOLESALERS' WHO GATHER FISH FROM ALL OVER, AND 1,271 'INTERMEDIATE WHOLESALERS' WHO SOURCE FISH FROM THE 'WHOLESALERS' AND SELL TO RETAILERS AND RESTAURANTS.
CHOKAN NAKAO, 28 YEARS OLD, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CENTRAL WHOLESALE MARKET.

IN THE WATERS AROUND JAPAN, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 3,300 TYPES OF FISH AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, OF WHICH ABOUT 600 ARE EDIBLE, AND MOST OF THEM END UP AT TSUKIJI MARKET.
HOW MANY TYPES OF FISH ARE THERE EXACTLY?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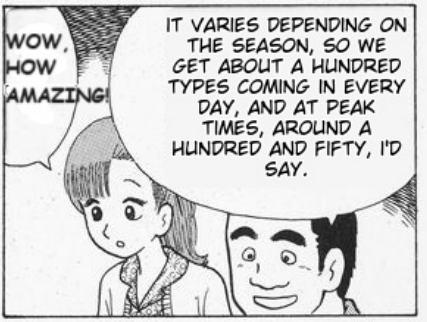
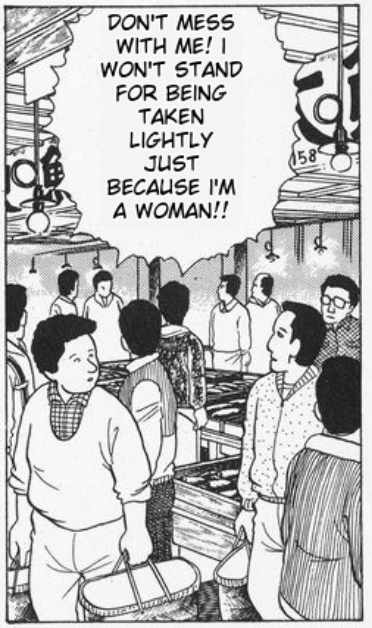

WOW, HOW AMAZING!
IT VARIES DEPENDING ON THE SEASON, SO WE GET ABOUT A HUNDRED TYPES COMING IN EVERY DAY, AND AT PEAK TIMES, AROUND A HUNDRED AND FIFTY, I'D SAY.

ARE THEY FIGHTING?


DON'T MESS WITH ME! I WON'T STAND FOR BEING TAKEN LIGHTLY JUST BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN!!
158

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NATSUMI-SAN.
WAIT, THAT VOICE...

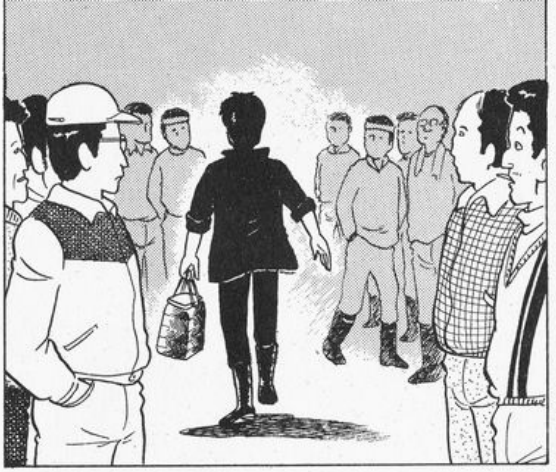
YOU FAKESTERS ARE A DISGRACE TO THE FISH MARKET!!
YOU COCKROACH SCUM, YOU MAGGOT!!

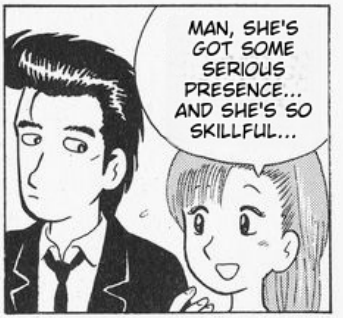
WHOA, LOOK AT THESE SPIRITED YOUNGSTERS, YELLING AT THE OLD MAN FROM 'SAKANA SADA'.
W-WHAT DID YOU SAY!!
SHH, THAT'S A WOMAN.

HEY THERE, KITAO! THIS CHICK'S OFF THE RAILS, SPEWING CRAZY TALK!
GUYS, PLEASE STOP! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON...!?
SHE'S THE OWNER OF A SUSHI RESTAURANT.

HEY, HAVE YOU READ 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4?

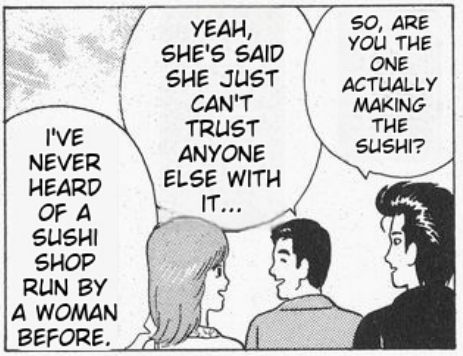
I DIDN'T COME HERE EXPECTING YOU TO DO ANYTHING FOR ME!
DON'T PLAY DUMB! DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME!!
BARLOY!! THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA STAND FOR BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF! I'M HERE DEALING WITH CUSTOMERS EVERY DAY, GIVING MY ALL IN SERIOUS BUSINESS. IF I ACCIDENTALLY SERVE UP THIS CRAPPY FLOUNDER TO A CUSTOMER, WHAT AM I GONNA DO, HUH?
I-I'M SORRY, LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU...
IT'S COMMON WITH FLOUNDER THIS SEASON, YOU KNOW? JUST BECAUSE IT LOOKS GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S GOOD WHEN YOU FILLET IT...
NATSUKO-SAN... IT'S NOT LIKE USADA-SAN DID IT ON PURPOSE...
NATSUKO-SAN, THAT'S TOO MUCH. USADA-SAN IS APOLOGIZING TOO...
DON'T MESS AROUND! YOU'RE JUST A GREENHORN HERE. HOW MANY YEARS HAVE I BEEN WORKING HARD AT THE MARKET? IF YOU DON'T GET THAT, YOU BETTER QUIT THIS BUSINESS!
I AIN'T EVER BUYING FROM YOUR SHOP AGAIN, SEE YA!
YOU UNDERESTIMATED ME JUST BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN!!
W-WHAT...?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!! SUPPORTING THIS PHONY GUY COULD GET YOU BANNED FROM OUR PLACE!




MAN, SHE'S GOT SOME SERIOUS PRESENCE... AND SHE'S SO SKILLFUL...

SINCE MY OLD MAN PASSED AWAY, I'VE BEEN TAKING THE LEAD IN RUNNING THE SHOP.

WOW, SO THAT NAOMI-SAN IS THE OWNER OF A SUSHI RESTAURANT?


I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A SUSHI SHOP RUN BY A WOMAN BEFORE.
YEAH, SHE'S SAID SHE JUST CAN'T TRUST ANYONE ELSE WITH IT...
SO, ARE YOU THE ONE ACTUALLY MAKING THE SUSHI?

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, I CAN SHOW YOU AROUND.
WHY DON'T WE GO CHECK HER OUT, YAMAOKA-SAN? A FEMALE SUSHI CHEF WOULD MAKE A GREAT STORY.

WELL, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY RARE, RIGHT?

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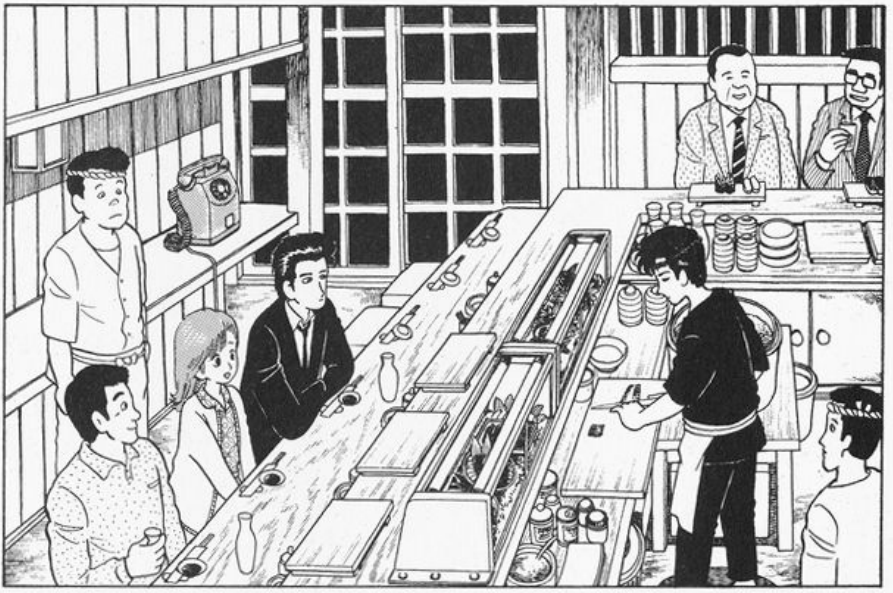
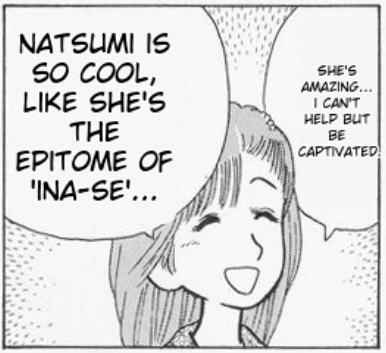
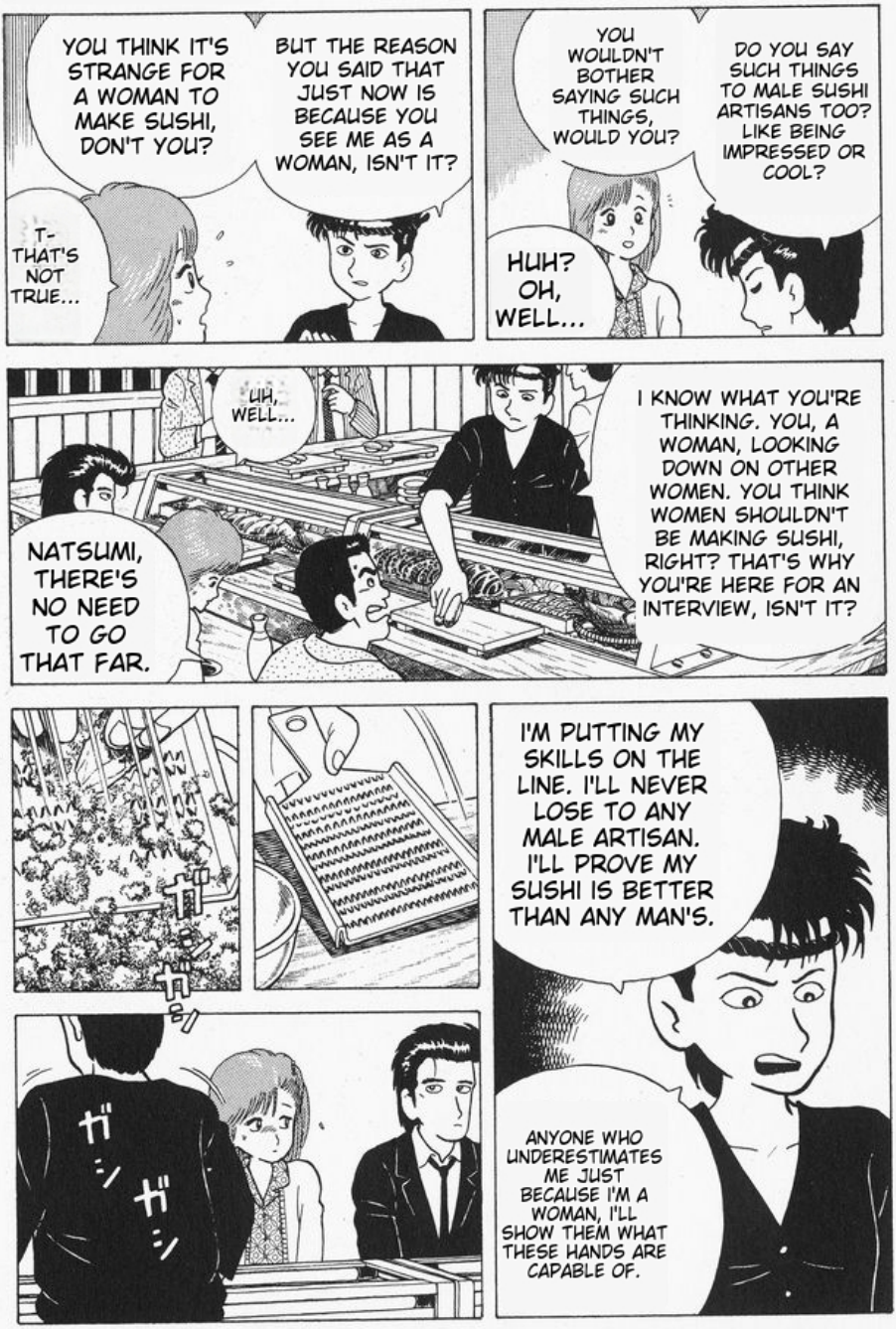



NATSUMI IS SO COOL, LIKE SHE'S THE EPITOME OF 'INA-SE'...
SHE'S AMAZING... I CAN'T HELP BUT BE CAPTIVATED.


YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE FOR A WOMAN TO MAKE SUSHI, DON'T YOU?
BUT THE REASON YOU SAID THAT JUST NOW IS BECAUSE YOU SEE ME AS A WOMAN, ISN'T IT?
T-THAT'S NOT TRUE...
YOU WOULDN'T BOTHER SAYING SUCH THINGS, WOULD YOU?
DO YOU SAY SUCH THINGS TO MALE SUSHI ARTISANS TOO? LIKE BEING IMPRESSED OR COOL?
HUH? OH, WELL...
UH, WELL...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. YOU, A WOMAN, LOOKING DOWN ON OTHER WOMEN. YOU THINK WOMEN SHOULDN'T BE MAKING SUSHI, RIGHT? THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE FOR AN INTERVIEW, ISN'T IT?
NATSUMI, THERE'S NO NEED TO GO THAT FAR.
I'M PUTTING MY SKILLS ON THE LINE. I'LL NEVER LOSE TO ANY MALE ARTISAN. I'LL PROVE MY SUSHI IS BETTER THAN ANY MAN'S.
ANYONE WHO UNDERESTIMATES ME JUST BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN, I'LL SHOW THEM WHAT THESE HANDS ARE CAPABLE OF.
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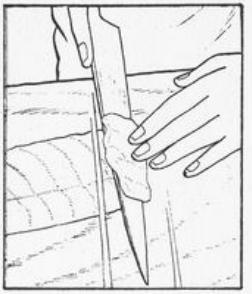
WELCOME!!
WELCOME!!
カラ
LET'S GO!!
HERE COME THE ESTEEMED KIYOSAWA SEIEMON AND ICHIHASHI KIKUZO!!
TODAY, WE'VE GOT SOME INCREDIBLE GUESTS COMING IN!!
TODAY, I BROUGHT ALONG TWO TOP-NOTCH ACTORS IN THE LAND. I NEED YOUR ABSOLUTE BEST PERFORMANCE, GOT IT?
HERE, WE TREAT EVERYONE EQUALLY, WHETHER THEY'RE THE PRIME MINISTER OR ANYONE ELSE. NO SPECIAL TREATMENT HERE.
KABUKI ACTORS...
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT WELL-VERSED IN KABUKI, I KNOW A THING OR TWO!
OH MY, THE LEGENDARY ONNAGATA ACTOR, KIYOSAWA SEIEMON, AND THE RISING STAR WITH THE MOST TALENT AND POPULARITY, ICHIHASHI KIKUZO...

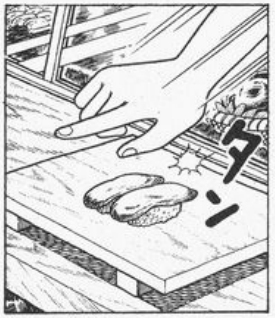
HAHA, YOU'RE STILL AS TOUGH AS EVER! COME ON, TAKE A SEAT. THIS PLACE IS A BIT DIFFERENT, AND I'VE BEEN WANTING TO BRING YOU HERE.
ALRIGHT THEN...

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DILLY-DALLYING FOR? GET THE SAKE READY!
GOT IT!
LET'S HAVE SOME WARM SAKE AND LEAVE THE SUSHI SELECTION TO THE CHEF, SHALL WE?
O-OH, OKAY!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

HUH, DO THEY HAVE WOMEN MAKING SUSHI HERE?

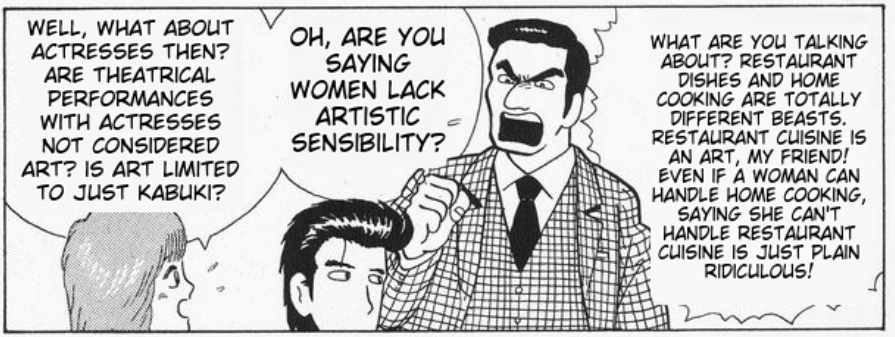


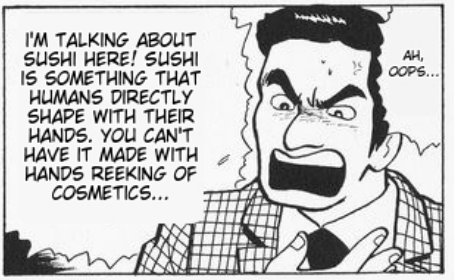


WELL, WELL, KIKUZO, LET'S ENJOY THE FEAST, SHALL WE?
.....

MR. TANAKA, I'M SORRY, BUT I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE!!
I CAN'T STOMACH SUSHI MADE BY A WOMAN!!
KIKUZO, WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WHAT, WHA...!?
THE CULINARY WORLD ITSELF IS A MAN'S DOMAIN. NO PLACE FOR WOMEN TO WANDER AROUND!!
SUSHI-MAKING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAN'S WORLD, BUT HEY, WE CAN'T STOP THE LADIES FROM COMING IN AS CUSTOMERS. IT'S TOLERABLE. BUT WHEN A WOMAN MAKES SUSHI, IT'S JUST... FISHY AND GROSS. FEELS LIKE BEING SERVED ROTTEN FISH!
W-WHAT DID YOU SAY!!

HEY, HAVE YOU READ 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4?

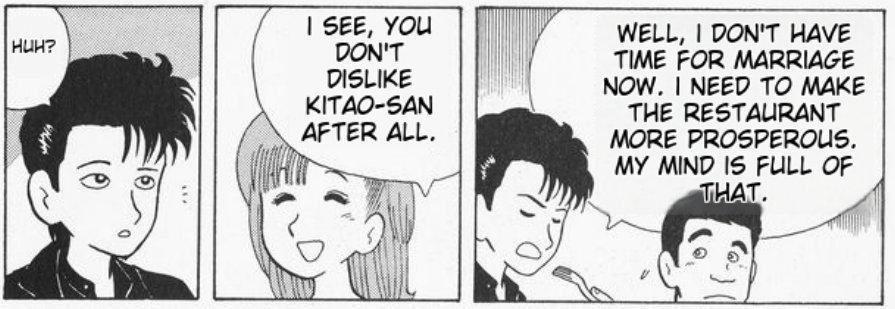




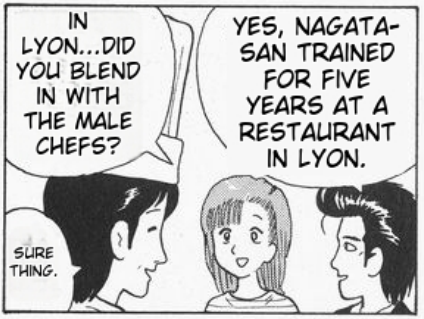
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE SUSHI HERE TOO.
BUT...
IT'S NOT THAT WOMEN CAN'T COOK IN RESTAURANTS BECAUSE THEY LACK TALENT, IT'S JUST THE FEUDAL MALE CHAUVINISTIC MINDSET THAT'S SHUTTING WOMEN OUT OF THE CULINARY WORLD.
YOU'RE DARN RIGHT! SAYING THAT SUSHI MADE BY A WOMAN ISN'T EDIBLE IS JUST PLAIN RIDICULOUS PREJUDICE.
BUT I HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT I CAN INTOXICATE CUSTOMERS WITH THE CHARM OF A WOMAN BETTER THAN A REAL WOMAN, OTHERWISE, WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING AN ONNAGATA?
I AM A FEMALE ROLE IN KABUKI, IT'S A STRANGE TALE OF A MAN TURNING INTO A WOMAN.
WHAT THE HECK!!
W-WHY!?
ROUGH, RUDE, AGGRESSIVE, AND INSENSITIVE...
BECAUSE FROM SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE A MAN LIKE YOU, ALL I CAN FEEL IS THE UGLINESS OF A MAN.
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE A WOMAN BUT IN A MAN'S FORM. BUT FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
HUH?

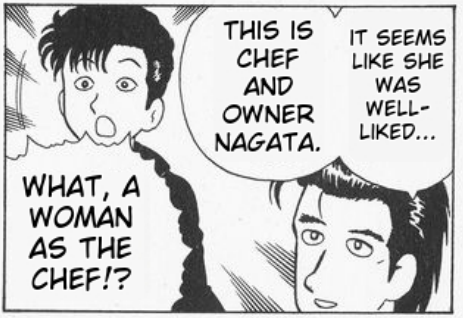
HEY, HAVE YOU READ 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4?

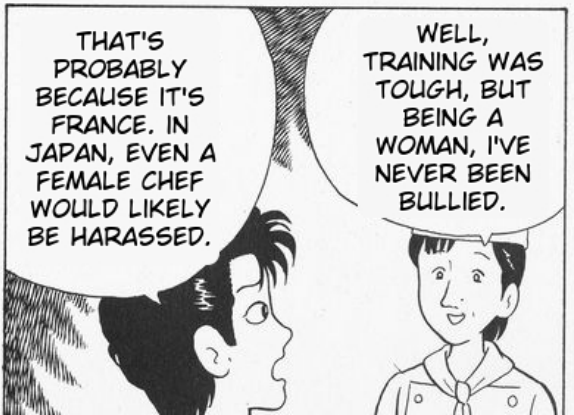
THIS MERLOT IS DELICIOUS, ISN'T IT?
フランス料理
EVEN THE LITTLE LAMB CAN PULL IT OFF, YOU KNOW.
※RIS DE VEAU=SWEETBR FROM CALVES. IT CAN BE PREPARED BY STEAMING, SAUTÉING, AND MORE, OFFERING A VARIETY OF COOKING METHODS.
WE'RE JUST IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION, YOU KNOW?
THERE'S NOTHING ORDINARY ABOUT THIS, YOU SEE! NATSUKO AND I HAVE BEEN CHILDHOOD FRIENDS FOREVER. I'VE BEEN PROPOSING TO HER FOR THREE YEARS NOW, BUT SHE JUST WON'T GIVE ME AN ANSWER. COME ON, SAY YES ALREADY!
RELATIONSHIPS, HUH... AIN'T NO BIG DEAL, REALLY.
HEY, NATSUKO, WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP LIKE WITH KITAO-SAN?


HUH?
I SEE, YOU DON'T DISLIKE KITAO-SAN AFTER ALL.
WELL, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR MARRIAGE NOW. I NEED TO MAKE THE RESTAURANT MORE PROSPEROUS. MY MIND IS FULL OF THAT.

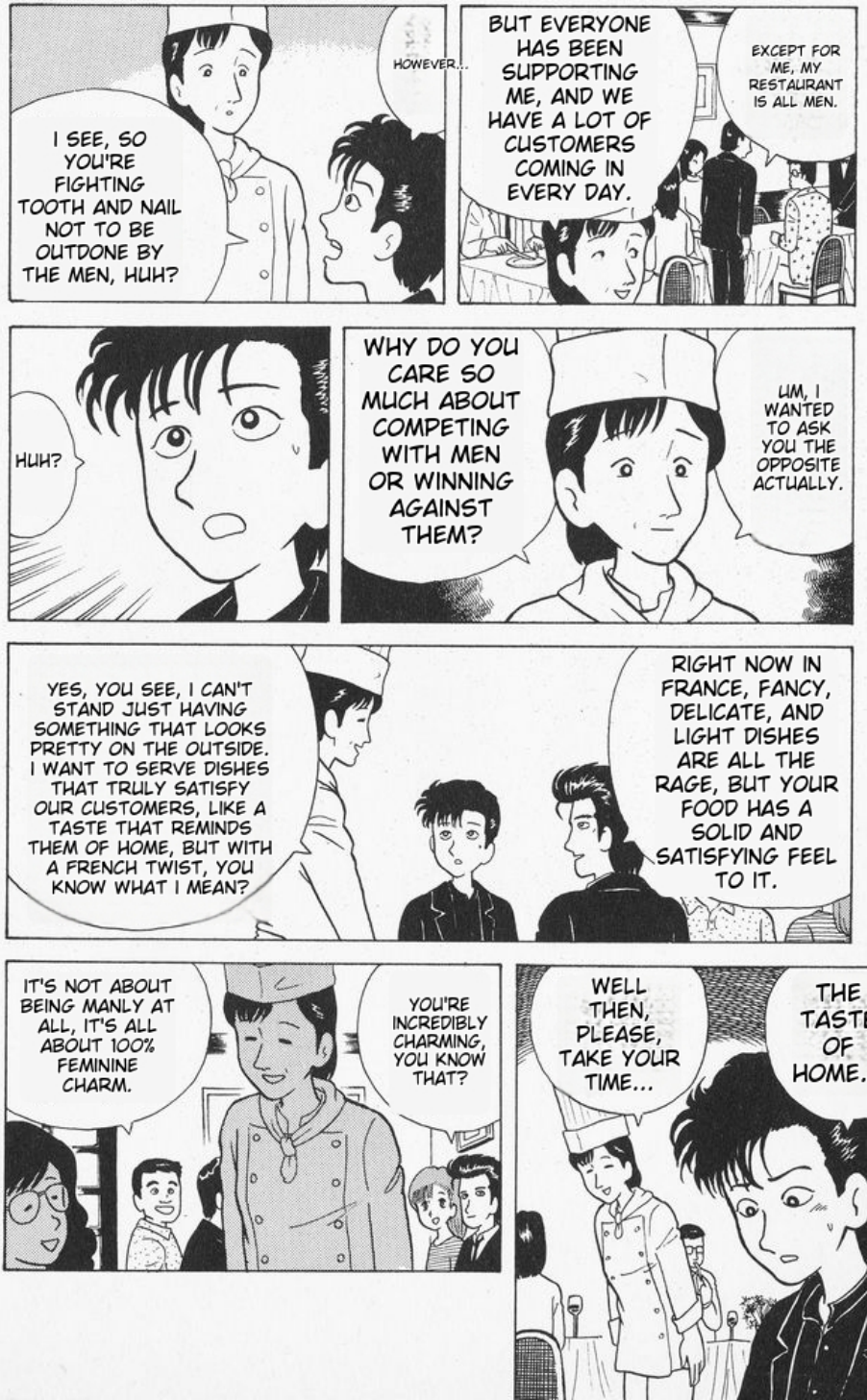
HOW WAS IT? DID YOU ENJOY IT?


IN LYON...DID YOU BLEND IN WITH THE MALE CHEFS?
YES, NAGATA-SAN TRAINED FOR FIVE YEARS AT A RESTAURANT IN LYON.
SURE THING.

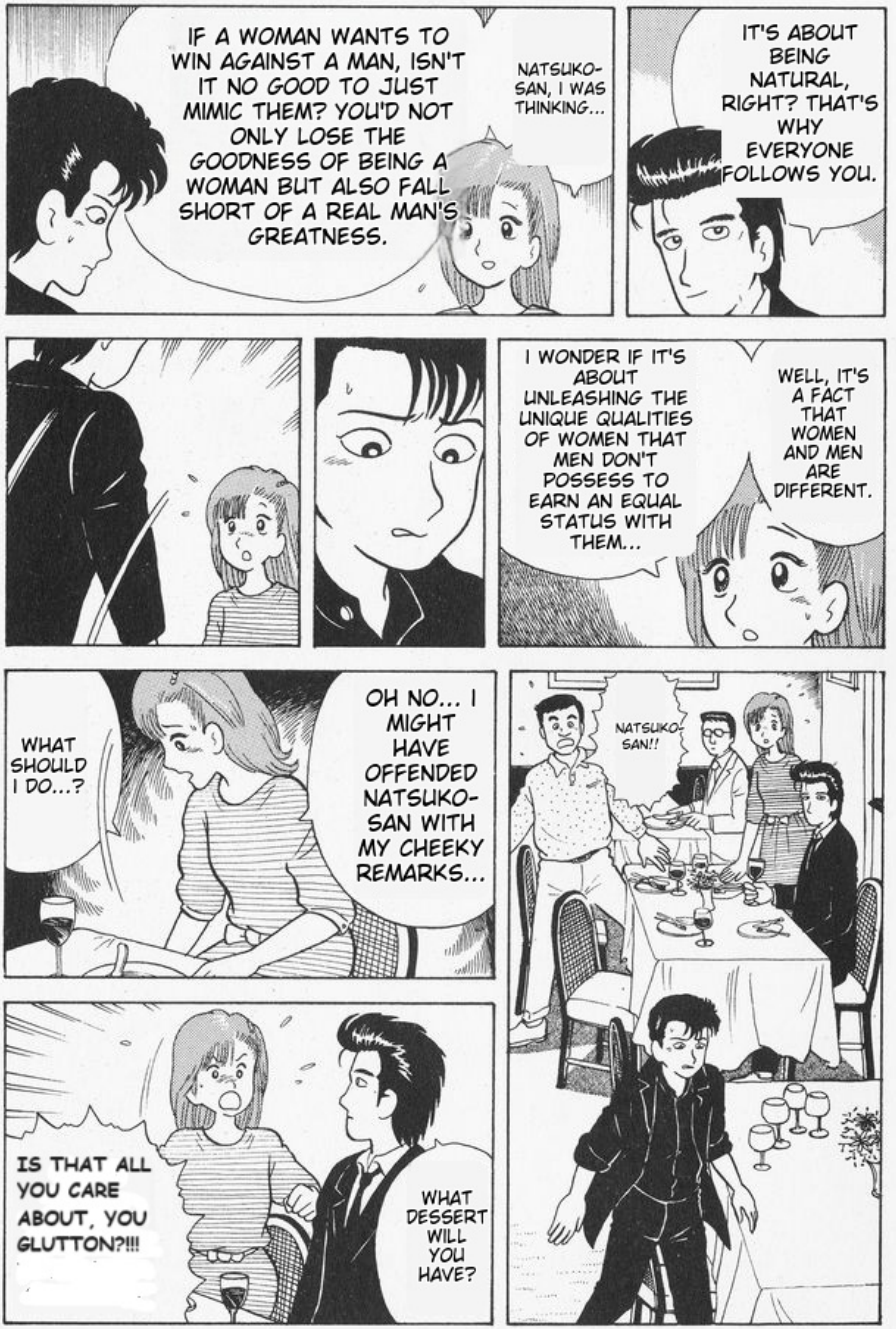

WHAT, A WOMAN AS THE CHEF!?
THIS IS CHEF AND OWNER NAGATA.
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WAS WELL-LIKED...


THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S FRANCE. IN JAPAN, EVEN A FEMALE CHEF WOULD LIKELY BE HARASSED.
WELL, TRAINING WAS TOUGH, BUT BEING A WOMAN, I'VE NEVER BEEN BULLIED.

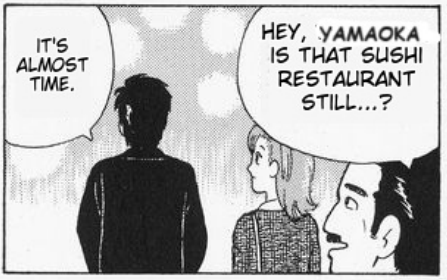
YOU WERE BULLIED, WEREN'T YOU.
YOU MUST HAVE HAD A HARD TIME, BEING THE ONLY WOMAN AMONG MEN DURING YOUR TRAINING.


I SEE, SO YOU'RE FIGHTING TOOTH AND NAIL NOT TO BE OUTDONE BY THE MEN, HUH?
HOWEVER...
BUT EVERYONE HAS BEEN SUPPORTING ME, AND WE HAVE A LOT OF CUSTOMERS COMING IN EVERY DAY.
EXCEPT FOR ME, MY RESTAURANT IS ALL MEN.
HUH?
WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT COMPETING WITH MEN OR WINNING AGAINST THEM?
UM, I WANTED TO ASK YOU THE OPPOSITE ACTUALLY.
YES, YOU SEE, I CAN'T STAND JUST HAVING SOMETHING THAT LOOKS PRETTY ON THE OUTSIDE. I WANT TO SERVE DISHES THAT TRULY SATISFY OUR CUSTOMERS, LIKE A TASTE THAT REMINDS THEM OF HOME, BUT WITH A FRENCH TWIST, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
RIGHT NOW IN FRANCE, FANCY, DELICATE, AND LIGHT DISHES ARE ALL THE RAGE, BUT YOUR FOOD HAS A SOLID AND SATISFYING FEEL TO IT.
IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING MANLY AT ALL, IT'S ALL ABOUT 100% FEMININE CHARM.
YOU'RE INCREDIBLY CHARMING, YOU KNOW THAT?
WELL THEN, PLEASE, TAKE YOUR TIME...
THE TASTE OF HOME...

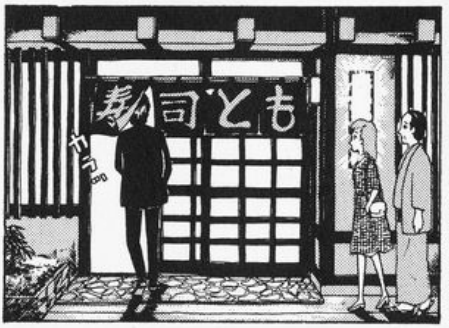
OH, DELICIOUS SHINBO 4.



A FEW WEEKS LATER -
THANKS TO KIYOSHIEMON-SAN, OUR READERS WERE THRILLED, AND THE KABUKI WORKSHOP WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.
I AM DELIGHTED IF I COULD BE OF ANY HELP.


HEY, YAMAOKA IS THAT SUSHI RESTAURANT STILL...?
IT'S ALMOST TIME.

AT THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER, AS A GESTURE OF GRATITUDE TO OUR READERS, WE HOSTED A KABUKI WORKSHOP TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS TRADITIONAL ART FORM BY INVITING THEM TO THE THEATER.
AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION TO MR. KIOSAWA SEIEMON . FOR BEING OUR GUEST LECTURER, OUR CHIEF EDITOR, MR. OHARA, INVITED HIM FOR A SPECIAL DINNER.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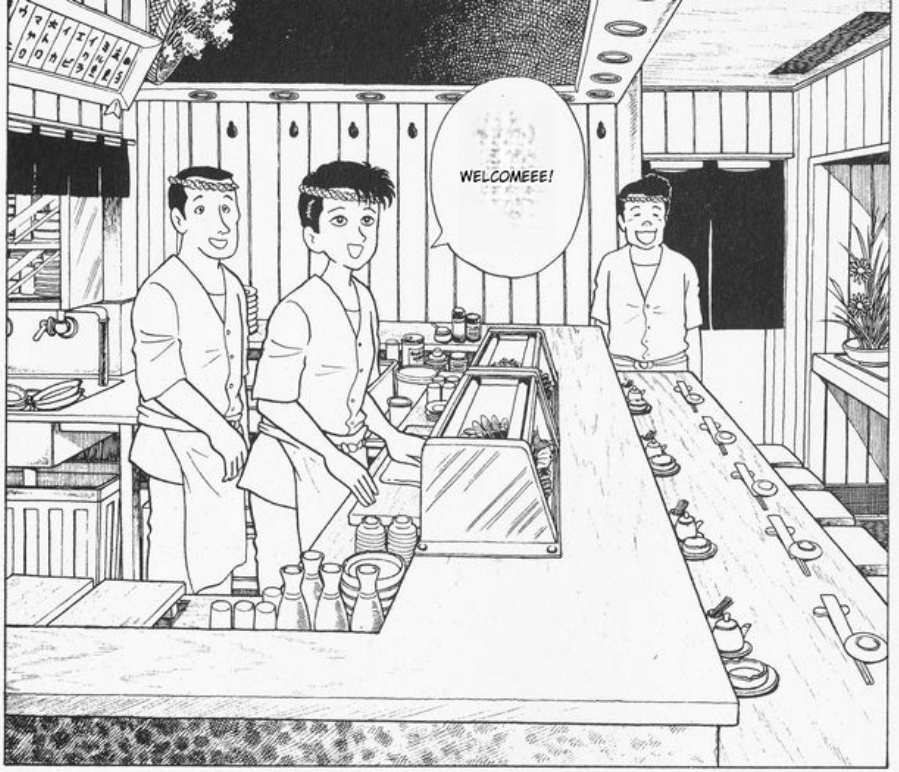
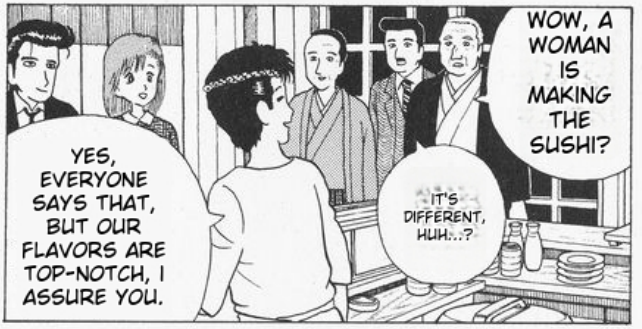
NATSUMI-SAN'S...!?
THIS SHOP?!


WELCOMEEE!

THE AMBIANCE OF THE STORE AND THE LOVELY NATSUMI HAVE COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED. THEY'RE BEAMING WITH JOY COMPARED TO BEFORE.


WOW, A WOMAN IS MAKING THE SUSHI?
IT'S DIFFERENT, HUH...?
YES, EVERYONE SAYS THAT, BUT OUR FLAVORS ARE TOP-NOTCH, I ASSURE YOU.

DID THEY START GRATING WASABI UNDER THE SHARKSKIN EVERY TIME THEY MAKE A ROLL?
AND THEY'RE POUNDING THE RICE METICULOUSLY WITH A KNIFE...
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HUH? HAVE YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE?
OH, FLOWERS... THEY'RE NEW, BUT THEY GIVE OFF SUCH A REFRESHING VIBE.

WITH GRACEFUL HAND MOVEMENTS, LIKE A MASTER OF DANCE...
ALWAYS STRIVING TO BE MORE DELICIOUS THAN ANY OTHER RESTAURANT...
YES, THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO BRING OUT THE FLAVOR AND AROMA OF WASABI.
YES... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT'S A DELICATE CARE THAT MEN CANNOT ACHIEVE. YOU'VE TRULY STUDIED WELL, MY FRIEND.
SHARI DOES NOT OVERSHADOW THE FLAVOR OF THE INGREDIENTS, BUT RATHER ENHANCES IT EVEN MORE,
MMM, THIS IS STRIKING, THE INGREDIENTS ARE METICULOUSLY PREPARED.
NATSUMI, THIS IS DELICIOUS, TRULY A TASTE THAT SOOTHES THE SOUL.
THANK YOU, YUKO.
IT'S A TRIUMPH OF THE GRACEFUL ELEGANCE UNIQUE TO WOMEN. I'LL STEAL THIS ARTISAN'S MOVES, EVEN AS A FEMALE IMPERSONATOR.
IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN BEING GRIPPED BY SOME WEIRD, GRUBBY MALE ARTISAN. IT FEELS GOOD, SO ELEGANT.

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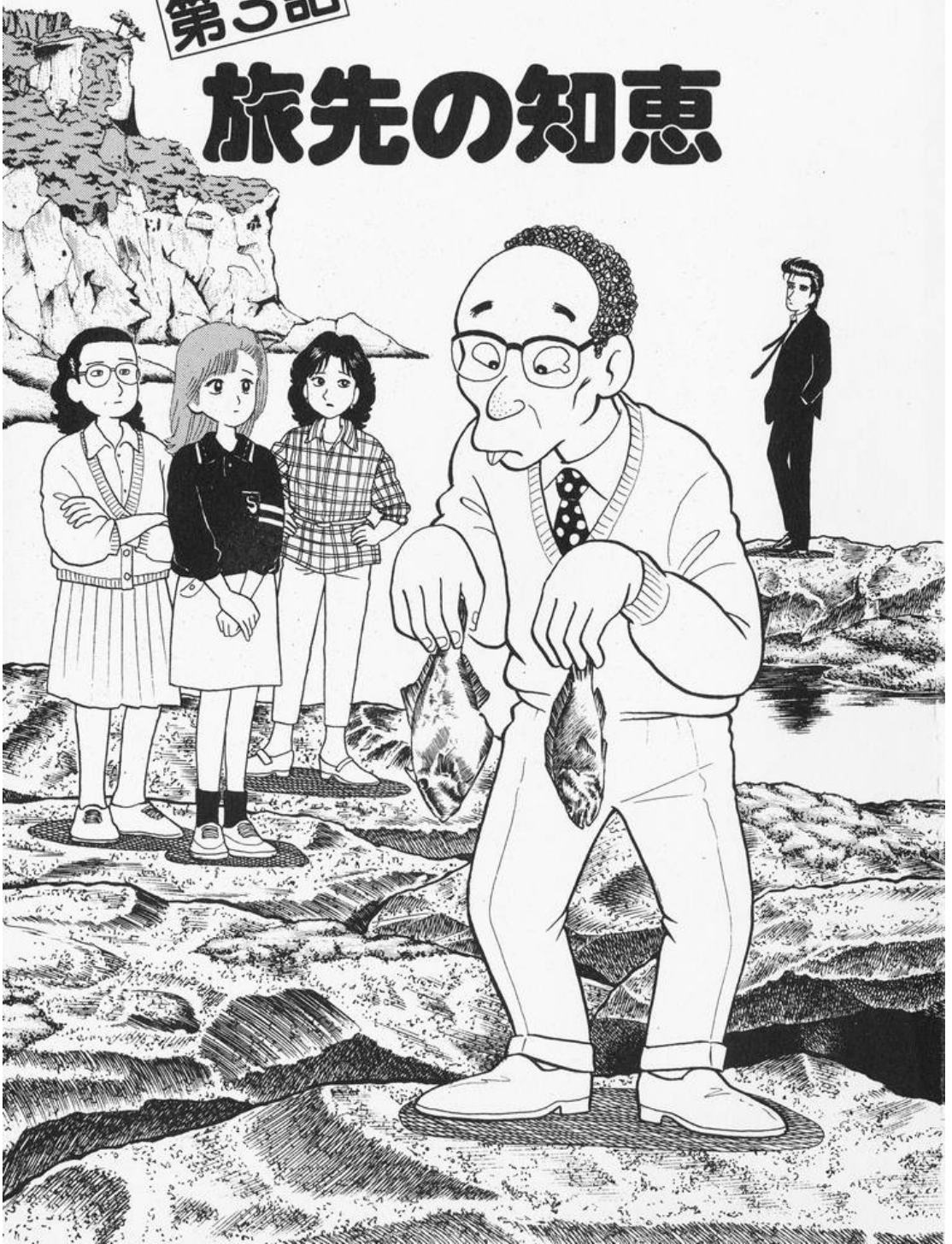

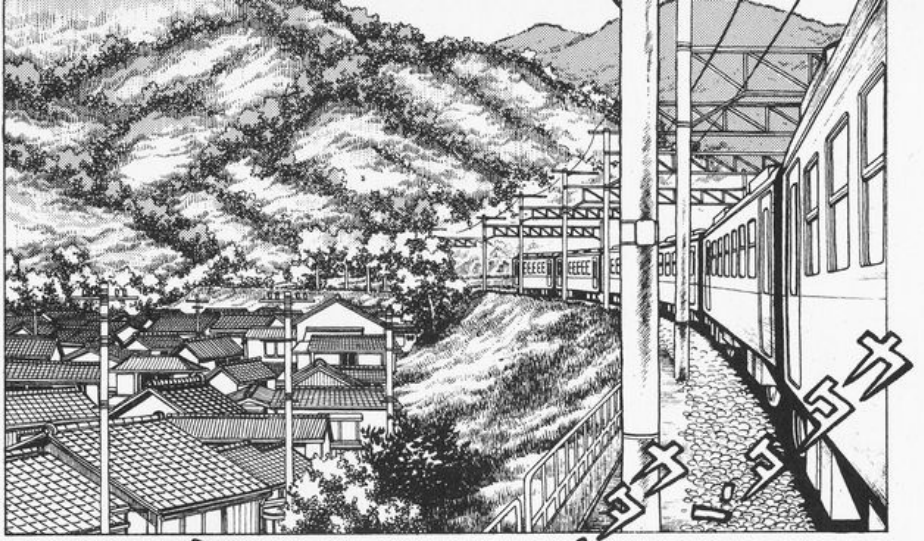
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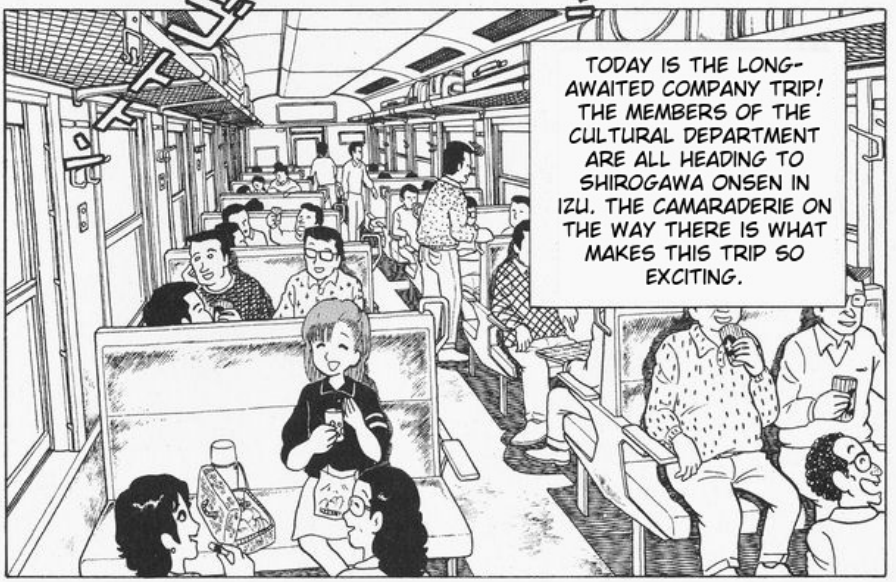
TODAY IS THE LONG-AWAITED COMPANY TRIP! THE MEMBERS OF THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT ARE ALL HEADING TO SHIROGAWA ONSEN IN IZU. THE CAMARADERIE ON THE WAY THERE IS WHAT MAKES THIS TRIP SO EXCITING.

IF YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF AS A FRIEND OF MINE, YOU'LL GET THE STAR TREATMENT AT THE ONSEN!
OH, SO YOU'RE YAMAOKA-SAN? I GO BY MATSUDA.

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YAMAOKA-SAN SEEMS TO BE GETTING ALONG WITH HIM.
IT'S QUITE LIVELY HERE, HUH?
MY SHIP IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT EVEN MORE STUNNING IS THE BAMBOO GROVE. IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BAMBOO GROVE IN THE IZU PENINSULA. ALRIGHT, I MUST SHOW IT TO YOU!
MY FAMILY ARE FISHERMEN, WE OWN TWO BOATS.
HAHAHA, GREAT! LET'S DRINK TOGETHER.
HUH? WELL, I...
WHOA, WHAT A CUTE LADY, WHY NOT JOIN US FOR A DRINK?
SO STOP HARRASSING HER!!!
YOU, THE LADY DOESN'T WANT TO DRINK, RIGHT?

YAMAOKA-KUN REALLY... OFFERING DRINKS TO STRANGERS...
HMPH... OFFERING SUCH DELICIOUS SAKE AND GETTING SCOLDED, HOW RIDICULOUS IS THAT!
THE TEITO SHIMBUN CREW HAVE RESERVED A CAR ABOUT THREE CARS BACK!
WHAT'S UP, WHAT'S GOING ON?
HEY BOSS, YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS!
OF ALL PEOPLE, HAVING TO RIDE WITH THE TEITO SHINBUN FOLKS... WHAT A MOOD KILLER...
REALLY? NO WAY.

WELL, NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT. THEY ARE WHO THEY ARE. TODAY IS A WELL-DESERVED BREAK FOR US, SO LET'S FORGET ABOUT OUR COMPETITORS AND JUST HAVE FUN, SHALL WE?
THAT'S WHY WE'RE CURRENTLY IN THE WORST KIND OF HOSTILE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM.
THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN AGGRESSIVELY PUSHING THEIR SALES STRATEGY FOR THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, SNATCHING THE TOP SPOT IN SALES FROM US, RIGHT?
UH-OH, IT'S THE SALES MANAGER FROM THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL NEWSPAPER!
THOSE GUYS ARE DEFINITELY HEADING TO PLACES LIKE SHIMODA OR ITO.
THAT'S RIGHT. FIRST OF ALL, OUR DESTINATION, SHIRAKAWA ONSEN, IS SMALL IN SCALE AND A HIDDEN GEM IN IZU, YOU KNOW.
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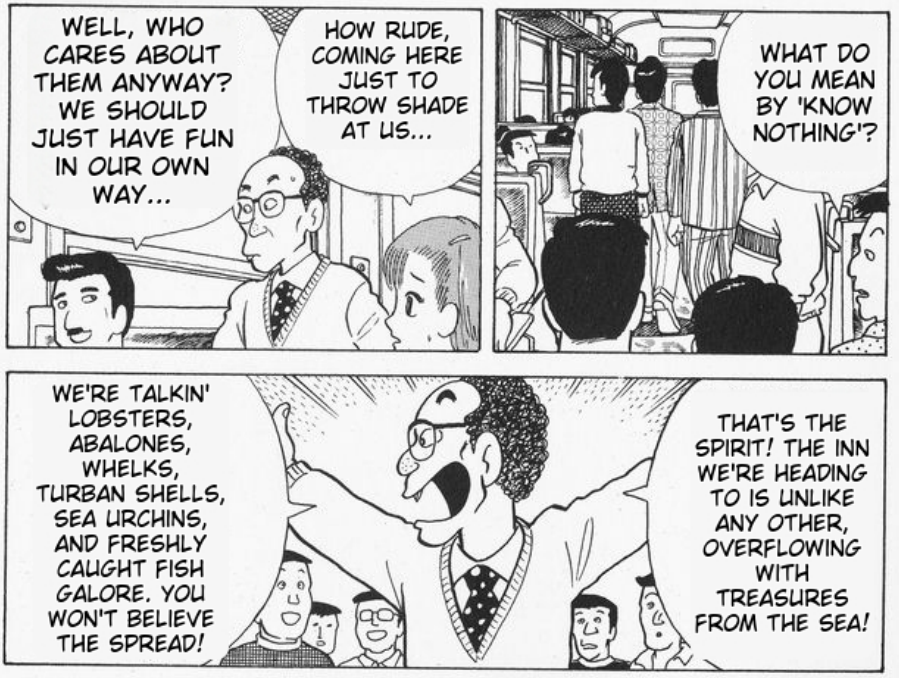
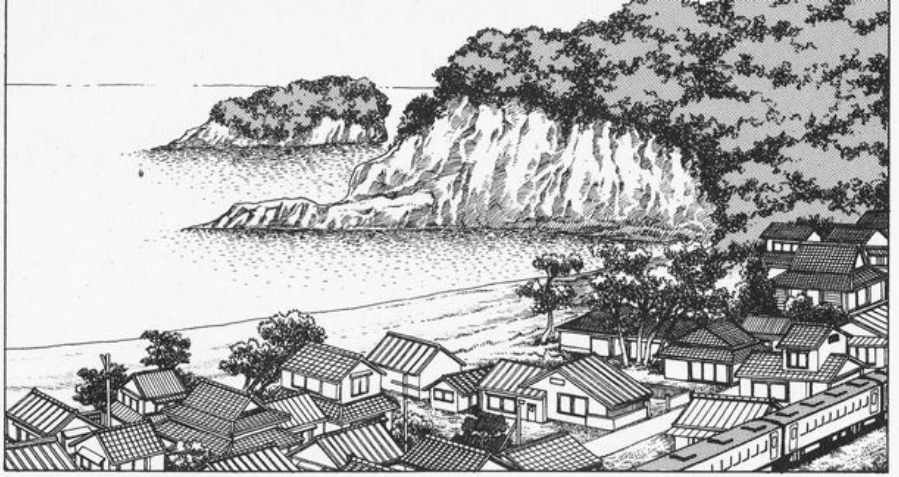
OH, IT'S AKABANE-SAN FROM THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL! WHAT A COINCIDENCE... IS THIS ALSO A COMPANY TRIP?

LOOKS LIKE CELEBRATING A VICTORY IS QUITE THE MOOD BOOSTER.
HOW RUDE, WHAT'S WITH THE 'SHABBY' COMMENT?
HMPH, THIS AIN'T YOUR AVERAGE EMPLOYEE TRIP LIKE THE SHABBY NEWSPAPERS. MORE LIKE A CELEBRATION TRIP, IF YOU ASK ME.
WHAT, ARE YOU GUYS FOLLOWING US TO THE SAME PLACE?!
IN CELEBRATION OF THE GREAT VICTORY OF OUR TEITO NEWSPAPER, WE'LL BE HAVING A GRAND FEAST AT SHIRAKAWA ONSEN.
WE TOTALLY OUTSHINED THE COMPETITION IN CIRCULATION NUMBERS, SO TODAY WE'RE TREATING THE SHOP OWNERS WHO HELPED EXPAND OUR CIRCULATION TO A TRIP.
WELL, IT SUITS YOU! SECOND-RATE ACCOMODATIONS FOR A SECOND-RATE NEWSPAPER!!!
A MINSHUKU? STAYING IN A MINSHUKU? HAHAHA!
WE'RE NOT STAYING AT A HOTEL, WE'RE STAYING AT A MINSHUKU.
OH, SO YOU'RE COMING TOO, WHICH HOTEL ARE YOU STAYING AT?
GOING TO THE SAME PLACE JUST MAKES IT EVEN WORSE.
TALK ABOUT UNLUCKY TIMING TO HAVE OUR COMPANY TRIPS ON THE SAME DAY, WELL, MAKE THE MOST OF IT AND HAVE FUN.
HAHA, CLUELESS AS ALWAYS...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A MINSHUKU? FIRST OF ALL, SHIRAKAWA ONSEN IS A COZY LITTLE HOT SPRING TOWN, WITH ONLY TWO SMALL INNS AND THE REST BEING MINSHUKUS. WE'RE STAYING IN A MINSHUKU OURSELVES, AREN'T WE?!

HEY, 'OISHINBO 4'!



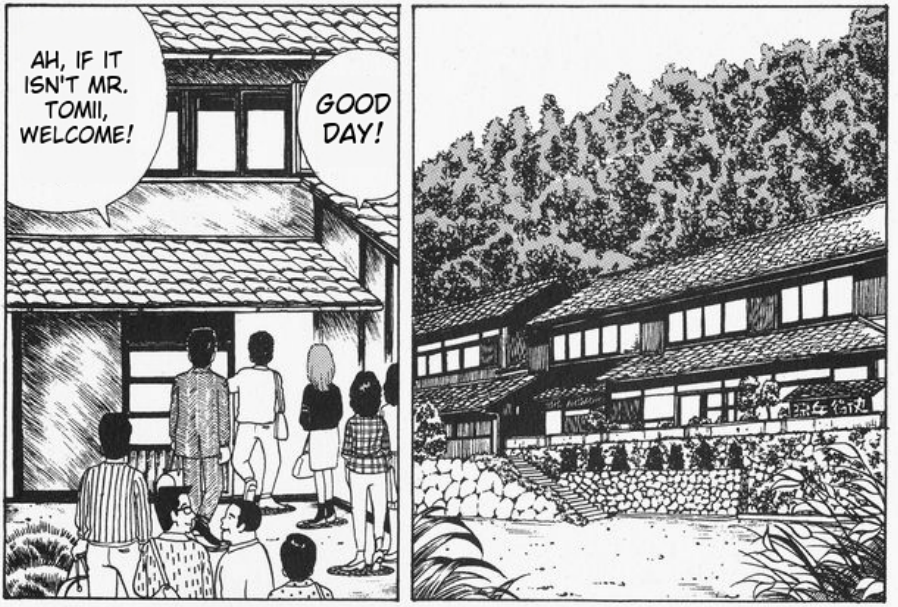


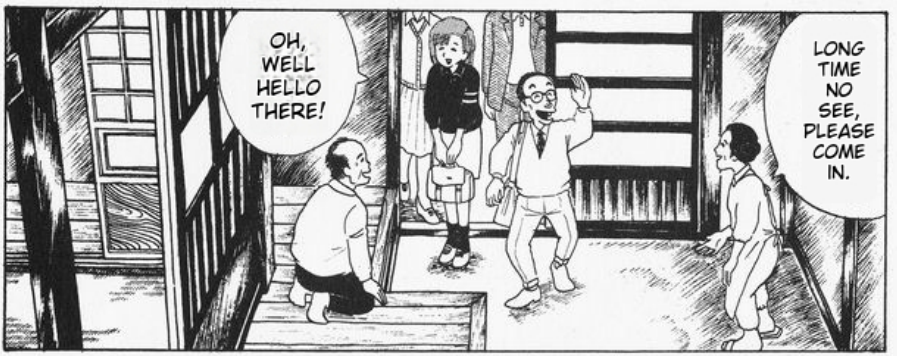
W-WHAT THE...?
A HOTEL IN A PLACE LIKE THAT...!?

日川温泉駅

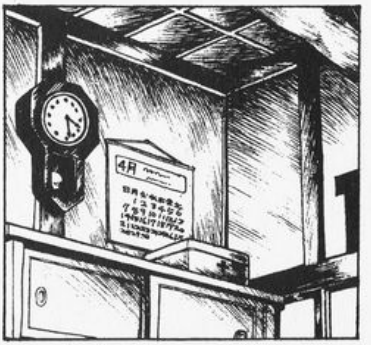
WELL, THINGS ENDED UP LIKE THIS, BUT HEY, FROM NOW ON, IT'S GONNA BE WHAT IT'S GONNA BE... SO, IT'S ALL GOOD, RIGHT?
トロピカルホテル
歓迎!!帝都新聞御一行様

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THIS USED TO BE A QUAINT LITTLE HOT SPRING RESORT THAT I FREQUENTED SINCE MY STUDENT DAYS... I NEVER IMAGINED THEY'D BUILD SUCH A FLASHY HOTEL HERE...
SO, THE DEVELOPMENT BY BIG CORPORATIONS HAS BEGUN, HUH? ANOTHER PARADISE LOST IN THE MAKING...
WELL... I CAME HERE THREE YEARS AGO... BACK THEN, THERE WASN'T A HINT OF A HOTEL IN SIGHT...
WELL, SHOOOOT, I DONE WENT AND ATE UP ALL THE GOODIES, DIDN'T I? GOTTA MAKE IT UP TO YA LATER FOR SURE!
歓迎!! 帝都新聞 一行様
WE'VE GOT 300 PEOPLE HERE, QUITE THE EXTRAVAGANT AFFAIR...
LOOKS LIKE THE TEITO SHIMBUN INVITED STORE OWNERS FROM THE KANTO REGION, HUH?


AH, IF IT ISN'T MR. TOMII, WELCOME!
GOOD DAY!

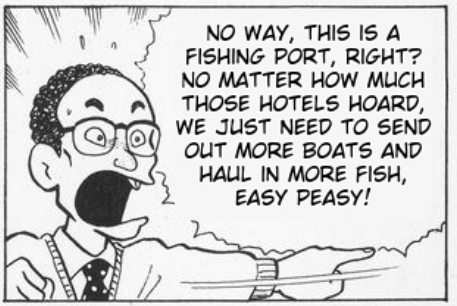

OH, WELL HELLO THERE!
LONG TIME NO SEE, PLEASE COME IN.

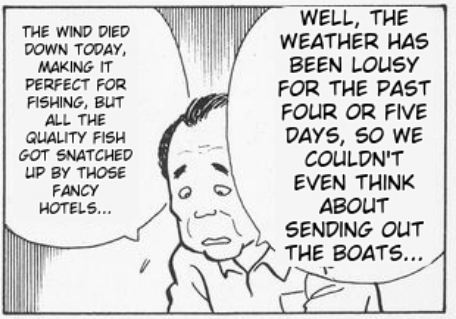
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE SEAFOOD PLATTER I REQUESTED ISN'T READY!?
THAT'S JUST RIDICULOUS!!



ANYWAY, TONIGHT'S GONNA BE A GRAND FEAST...
ALL THE SHRIMP, SHELLFISH, AND FISH AROUND HERE WERE SNATCHED UP BY THAT DARN HOTEL...
IT'S THE TEITO NEWSPAPER'S GRAND FEAST...

NO SEA BREAM, NO FLOUNDER, NO HORSE MACKEREL? NO ABALONE, NO TURBAN SHELL, NO HORNED TURBAN, NO SEA URCHIN?
BUT DIDN'T WE CULTIVATE SPINY LOBSTERS?
THE HOTELS BEAT US TO IT AND BOUGHT UP EVERYTHING FIRST.


NO WAY, THIS IS A FISHING PORT, RIGHT? NO MATTER HOW MUCH THOSE HOTELS HOARD, WE JUST NEED TO SEND OUT MORE BOATS AND HAUL IN MORE FISH, EASY PEASY!


WELL, THE WEATHER HAS BEEN LOUSY FOR THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE DAYS, SO WE COULDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT SENDING OUT THE BOATS...
THE WIND DIED DOWN TODAY, MAKING IT PERFECT FOR FISHING, BUT ALL THE QUALITY FISH GOT SNATCHED UP BY THOSE FANCY HOTELS...

SO, WHAT KIND OF DISHES CAN WE WHIP UP TODAY!?

THAT'S WHY WHEN THE CHIEF OF THE TEITO NEWSPAPER HEARD WE WERE STAYING AT A GUESTHOUSE, HE SMIRKED IN TRIUMPH.

OH NO! I DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO EAT TONKATSU!!!!
TONKATSU, OMELETS, SUKIYAKI...
WELL, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH, BUT, WE CAN WHIP SOMETHING UP.
THE VICE PRESIDENT FEELS RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE HE'S THE ONE WHO PUSHED FOR THIS PLACE SO EAGERLY...
TOMII, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...
YEAH, VICE PRESIDENT, WE JUST HAD SOME BAD LUCK BUMPING INTO THE TEITO NEWSPAPER'S BANQUET.
YO, YAMAOKA-SAN, WHAT'S UP!!
WHEN I GOT HOME, MY LITTLE BRO HAD JUST COME BACK FROM FISHING, AND BOY, HE HAD REELED IN A HUGE SEA BREAM! HE SAID, 'HERE YA GO!' AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER. PLEASE HAVE SOME!
HEY THERE, MATSUMOTO.

WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW?
WELL, ACTUALLY...
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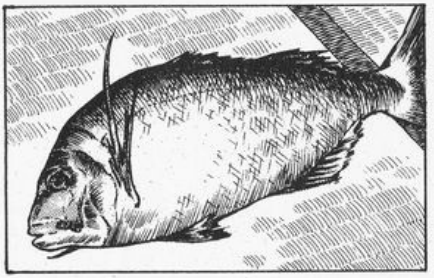
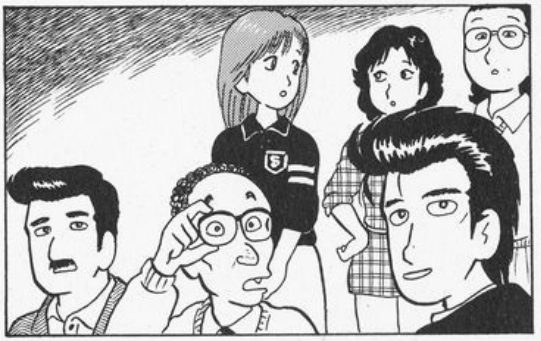


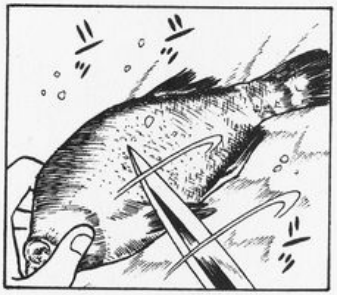
LOOK, TOMII-SAN! WE'VE GOT AN AMAZING SEA BREAM! LET'S MAKE SASHIMI OUT OF IT.
THERE'S ONLY ONE FISH... IF WE SPLIT IT, WE'LL ONLY GET A TINY PIECE EACH...

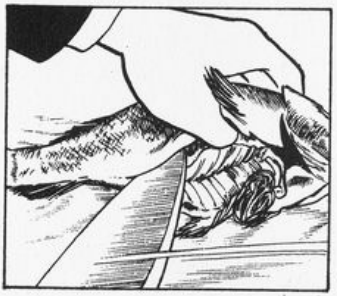
ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO A BEACH HOT POT!

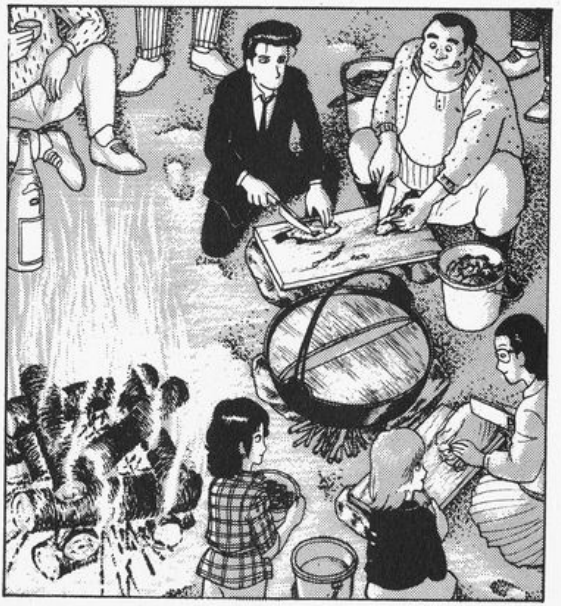
YEAH?
I SEE, I GET IT. SURE, THINGS LIKE SPINY LOBSTERS, ABALONES, AND FLOUNDERS ARE TASTY, BUT SEAFOOD ISN'T JUST ABOUT THOSE.



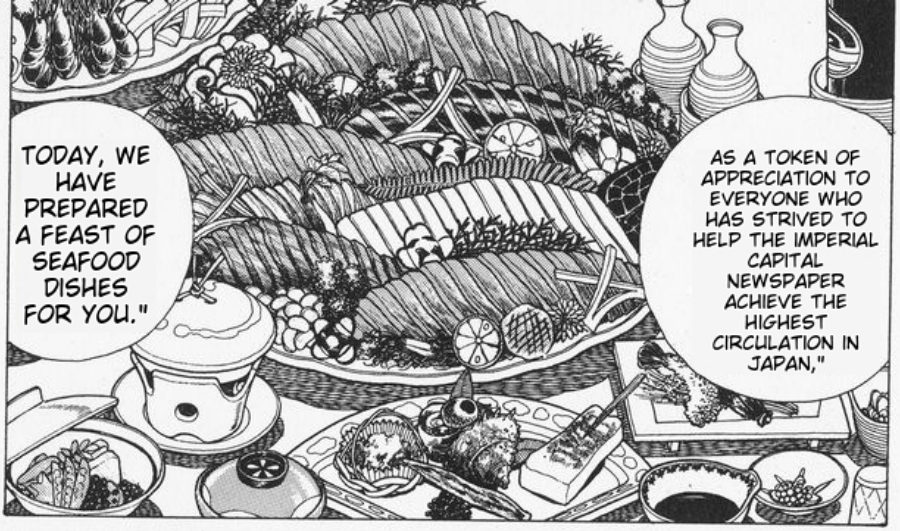
YEAH! LET'S DO IT!
BEACH HOT POT!

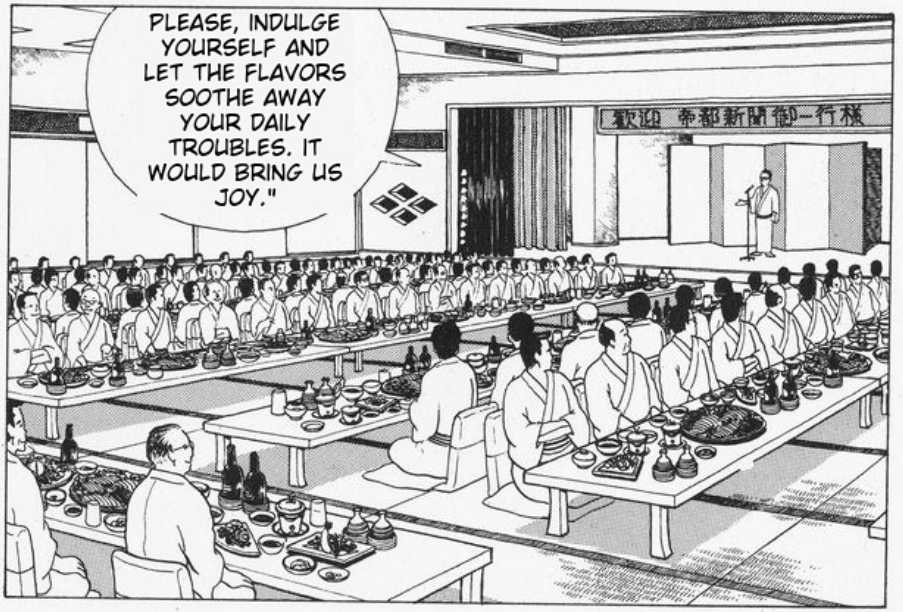






HEY, 'OISHINBO 4'!


TODAY, WE HAVE PREPARED A FEAST OF SEAFOOD DISHES FOR YOU."
AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION TO EVERYONE WHO HAS STRIVED TO HELP THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL NEWSPAPER ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST CIRCULATION IN JAPAN,"


PLEASE, INDULGE YOURSELF AND LET THE FLAVORS SOOTHE AWAY YOUR DAILY TROUBLES. IT WOULD BRING US JOY."

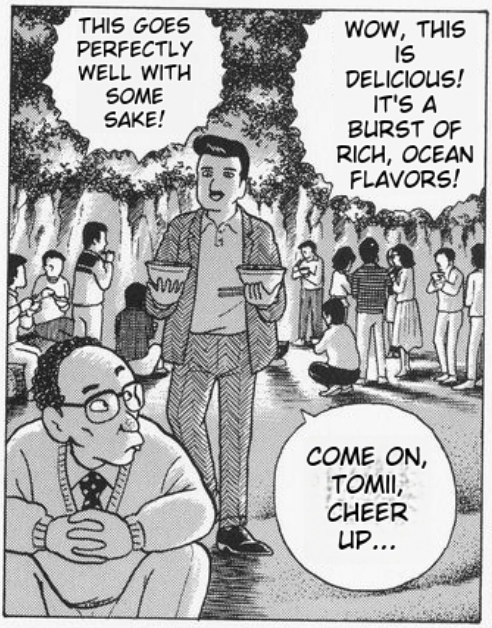
PLEASE, ENJOY.
NOW THEN, PLEASE HELP YOURSELF,

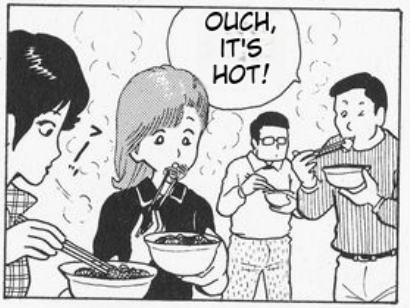
WOW, THIS SPINY LOBSTER IS STILL ALIVE!
THIS IS THE MOST MAGNIFICENT SPREAD I'VE EVER SEEN!

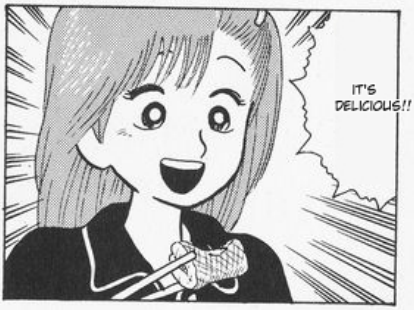
HEY, 'OISHINBO 4'!

WHOA, IT'S PACKED WITH SO MUCH MEAT!
HERE YOU GO.
THE SMELL OF THE SEA, RIGHT?

LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL COOKED NOW.


THIS GOES PERFECTLY WELL WITH SOME SAKE!
WOW, THIS IS DELICIOUS! IT'S A BURST OF RICH, OCEAN FLAVORS!
COME ON, TOMII, CHEER UP...


OUCH, IT'S HOT!


IT'S DELICIOUS!!

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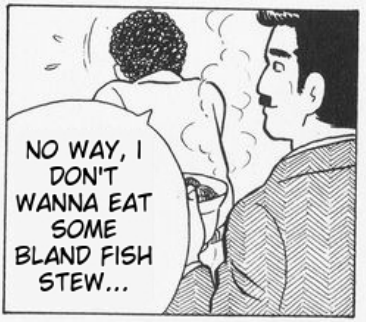
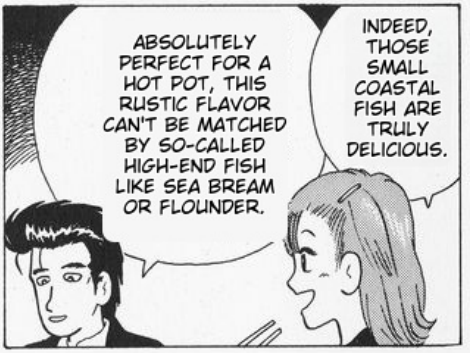
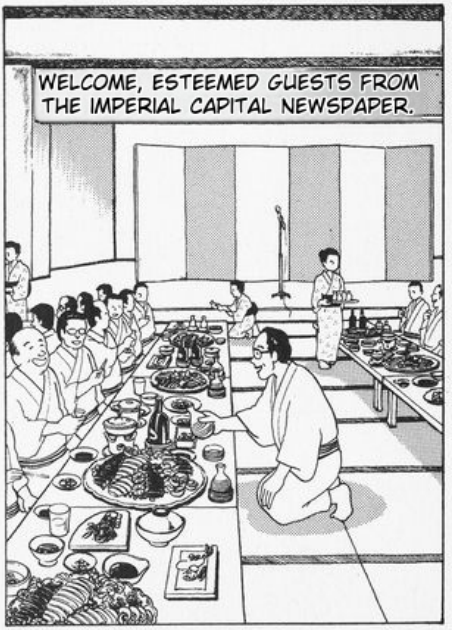

NO WAY, I DON'T WANNA EAT SOME BLAND FISH STEW...

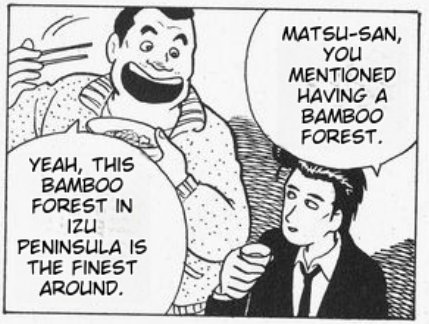
HEY, OISHINBO
4.





BUT DON'T GET TOO COCKY THIS TIME, BE PREPARED FOR A WILD NIGHT AHEAD...
VICE PRESIDENT, YOU SEEM TO BE IN HIGH SPIRITS, THAT'S GREAT.

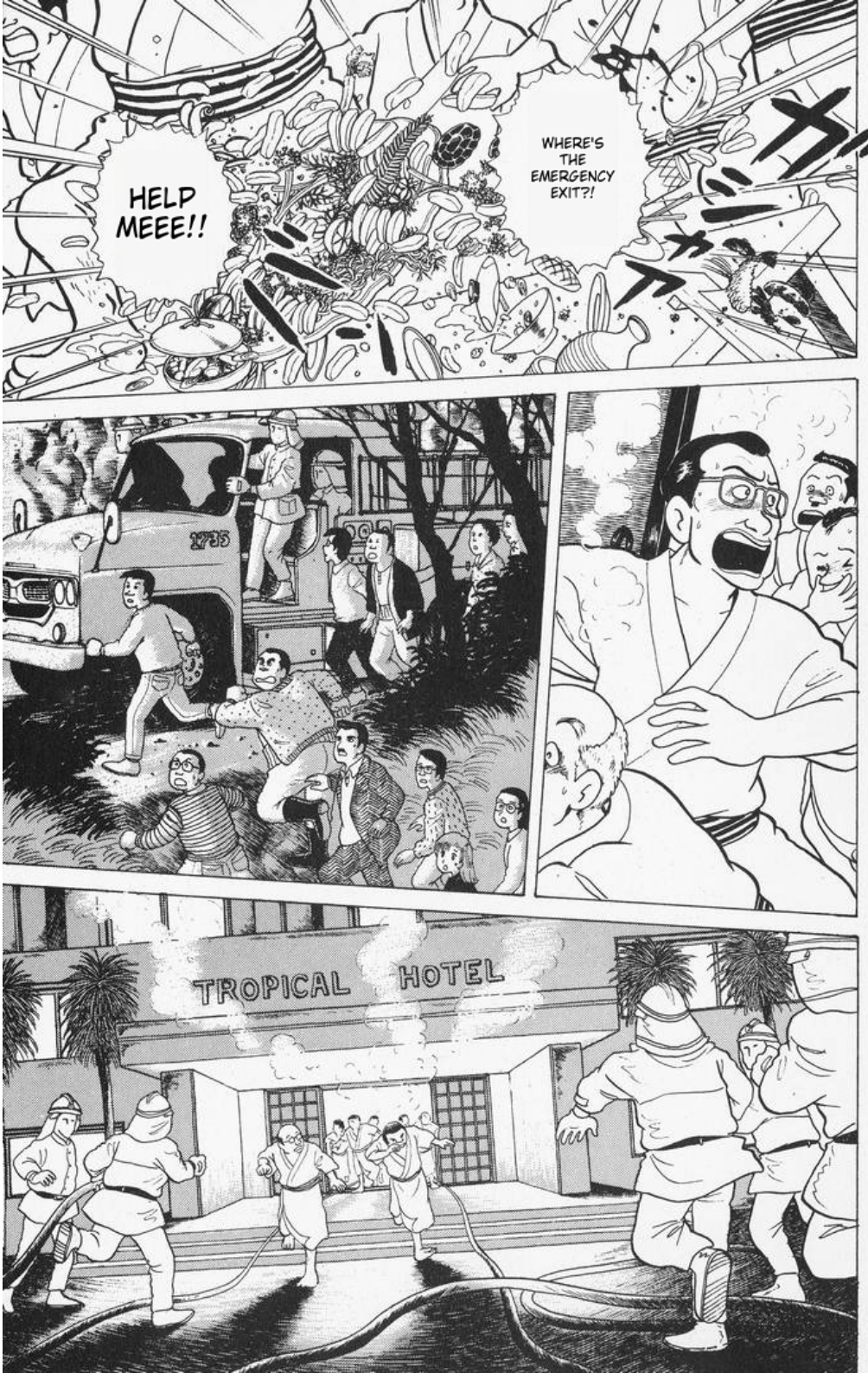
EMERGENCY, THE HOTEL IS ON FIRE!


MATSU-SAN, YOU MENTIONED HAVING A BAMBOO FOREST.
YEAH, THIS BAMBOO FOREST IN IZU PENINSULA IS THE FINEST AROUND.

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK ABOUT THAT.
ALRIGHT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT IF YOU ASK, I'LL DO ANYTHING.

THE FOLKS FROM THE TEITO NEWSPAPER ARE IN THERE!
NO TIME TO SPACE OUT, WE GOTTA GO HELP EVEN IF THEY'RE OUR BUSINESS RIVALS!!

OH, SMOKE...
WHAT!?
IT'S A FIRE!!


HELP MEEE!!
WHERE'S THE EMERGENCY EXIT?!
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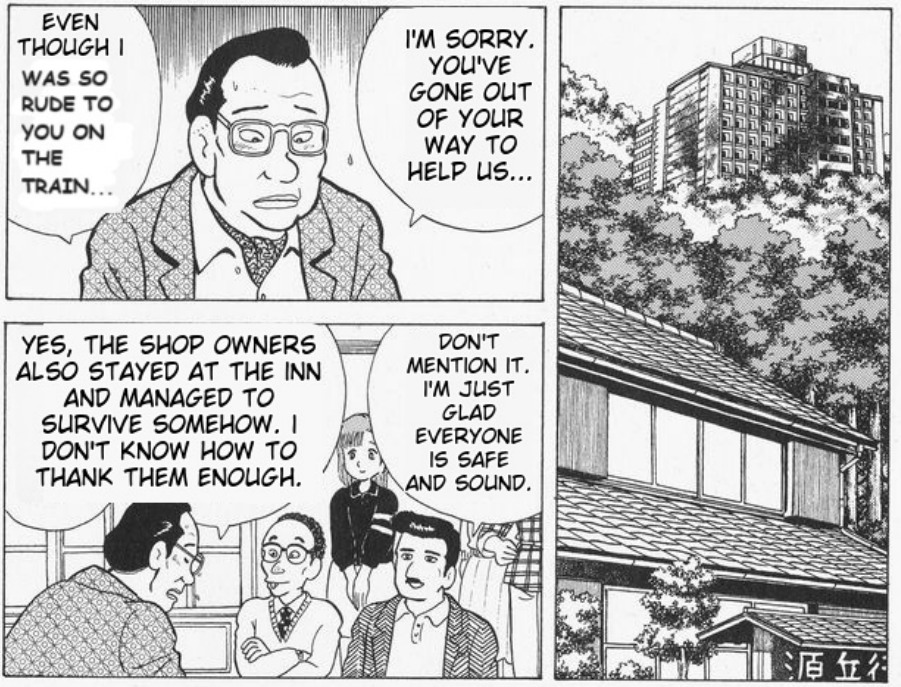
TROPICAL HOTEL


EVEN THOUGH I WAS SO RUDE TO YOU ON THE TRAIN...
I'M SORRY. YOU'VE GONE OUT OF YOUR WAY TO HELP US...
YES, THE SHOP OWNERS ALSO STAYED AT THE INN AND MANAGED TO SURVIVE SOMEHOW. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK THEM ENOUGH.
DON'T MENTION IT. I'M JUST GLAD EVERYONE IS SAFE AND SOUND.
BUT I REALLY WANTED TO EAT SOME SASHIMI...
WELL, SINCE YOU COULDN'T EAT EITHER, I GUESS WE'RE EVEN.
BECAUSE YOU GUYS BOUGHT THEM ALL, WE COULDN'T HAVE SASHIMI LAST NIGHT, BUT...
DON'T WORRY, MY PLACE CAN ACCOMMODATE A TON OF PEOPLE, SO HAVING A THOUSAND OR TWO THOUSAND IS NO BIG DEAL!
HEY, MATS-SAN, THERE ARE QUITE A FEW OF US. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT?
ALRIGHT, THEN LET'S FEAST ON SOME DELICIOUS SASHIMI!
HUH? SASHIMI FOR BREAKFAST?

HEY, 'OISHINBO 4'!

WOW, BAMBOO SHOOTS!
WHY ARE WE IN A BAMBOO GROVE LIKE THIS...
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA SERVE US SASHIMI?
THAT WON'T DO, IT'S GROWN TOO NICELY.
AND OVER THERE, AND THERE TOO!
SUCH DELICIOUS GOODS!
OH, IMPRESSIVE, YOU HAVE GOOD TASTE!
HEY, MATS-SAN OVER THERE.
BAMBOO SHOOTS!
WELL, THE GROUND IS KINDA BULGING THOUGH...
HUH? THERE'S NOTHING HERE, RIGHT?
YES, THAT'S THE POINT.

うまいのかねそんなモノ…
I'LL JUST TRIM THE SOFT TIP, LET'S HAVE A BITE, SHALL WE?
HUH? SO SASHIMI CAN BE MADE FROM BAMBOO SHOOTS!?
BAMBOO GROWS FAST, YOU KNOW! IN A FEW HOURS, THIS ONE WILL ALSO SHOOT UP FROM THE GROUND. BUT BY THEN, IT WON'T BE TASTY ANYMORE; IT'LL GET TOUGH AND BITTER.
IF IT'S NOT HARVESTED FROM THE EARTH AT THIS EARLY HOUR, WE CAN'T ENJOY IT AS SASHIMI.
OH, WHAT A LUXURIOUS TREAT! THIS IS THE EPITOME OF EXTRAVAGANCE!!
IT'S LIKE MY BLOOD IS GETTING PURIFIED ALL OVER MY BODY!!
IT'S SO CRUNCHY, SWEET, FRAGRANT, AND DELIGHTFUL! WOW!
WOW! THIS IS DELICIOUS, SO YUMMY!!

THE MORNING AFTER THE BEACH HOT POT IS ALL ABOUT BAMBOO SHOOTS. WHAT A FANTASTIC TRIP IT'S BEEN!
AFTER THE SASHIMI, WE'LL HAVE BAMBOO SHOOTS, MISO-DRESSED AND BAMBOO RICE TOO.
BAMBOO SHOOT SASHIMI AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING, A DELICACY THAT CAN ONLY BE SAVORED WITHIN THE BAMBOO FOREST. ABSOLUTELY MARVELOUS!
KASANEGASANE WAS AT A LOSS FOR WORDS, BUT THANKS TO HIM, THE SHOPKEEPERS WERE DELIGHTED, AND I WAS ABLE TO FULFILL MY DUTY.
AKABAN, TODAY IS JUST A CEASEFIRE. ONCE WE RETURN TO TOKYO, THE BATTLE FOR RECLAIMING THE TOP SPOT WILL BEGIN, MARK MY WORDS.
NO JOKE, WE WON'T JUST EASILY GIVE UP THE TOP SPOT.

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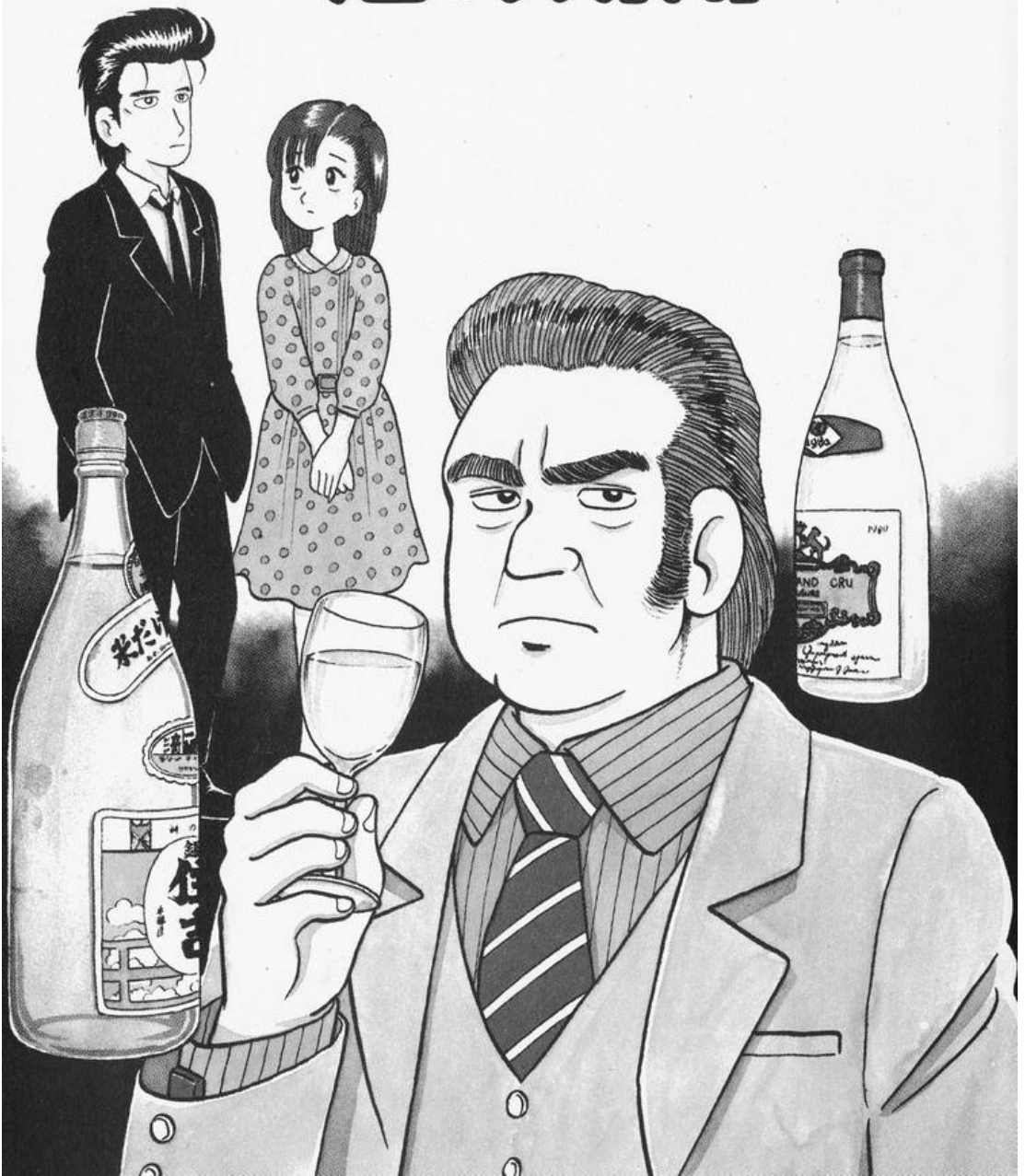
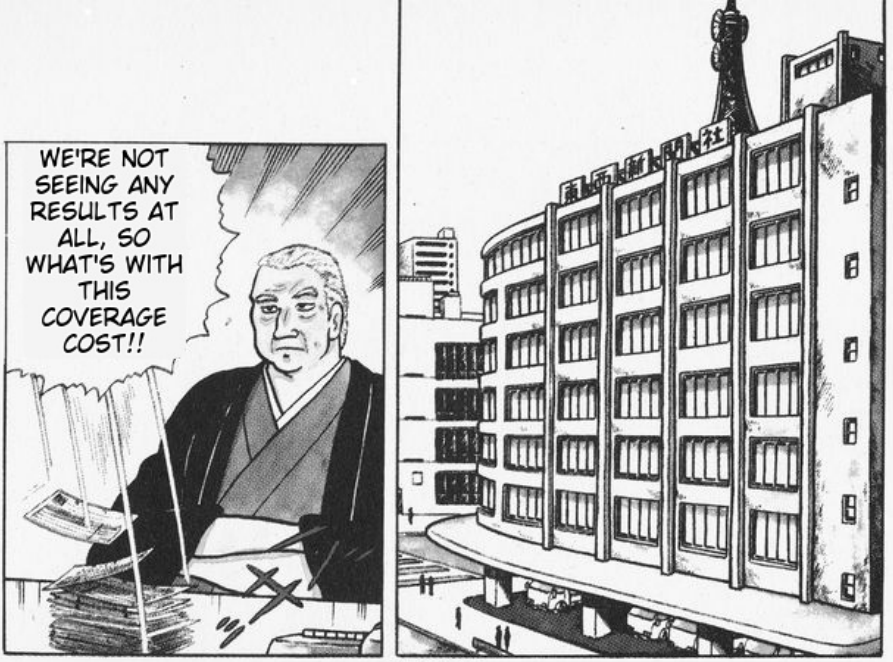
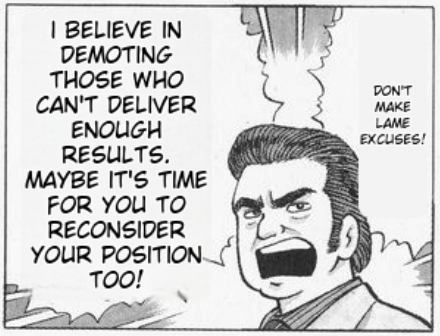


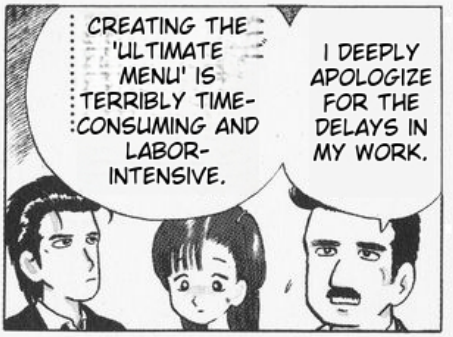

WE'RE NOT SEEING ANY RESULTS AT ALL, SO WHAT'S WITH THIS COVERAGE COST!!

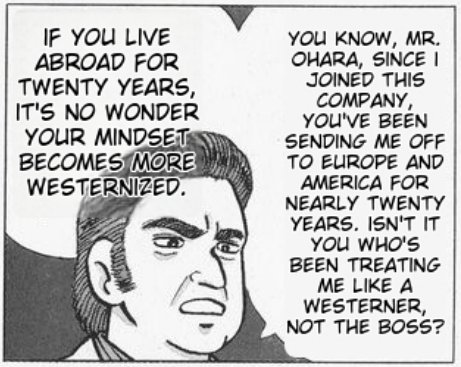
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST KEEP POURING MONEY INTO CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' WITH NO PROSPECT OF RESULTS!!
KYOICHI KOIZUMI, 53 YEARS OLD, DIRECTOR OF EDITING DEPARTMENT AT TOZAI NEWSPAPER COMPANY.
MR. OHARA, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE A NEWSPAPER COMPANY, WE'RE STILL A BUSINESS!!

IF WE PUT THIS MONEY INTO OTHER PROJECTS, WE COULD CREATE MORE APPEALING PAGES AND INCREASE OUR CIRCULATION!!
WELL, WITHOUT COVERING FOOD, THERE'S NO STORY WORTH TELLING, AND EATING GOOD FOOD COSTS MONEY, YOU KNOW...

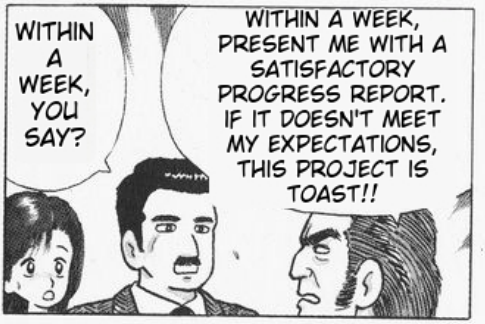
HEY, 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4.





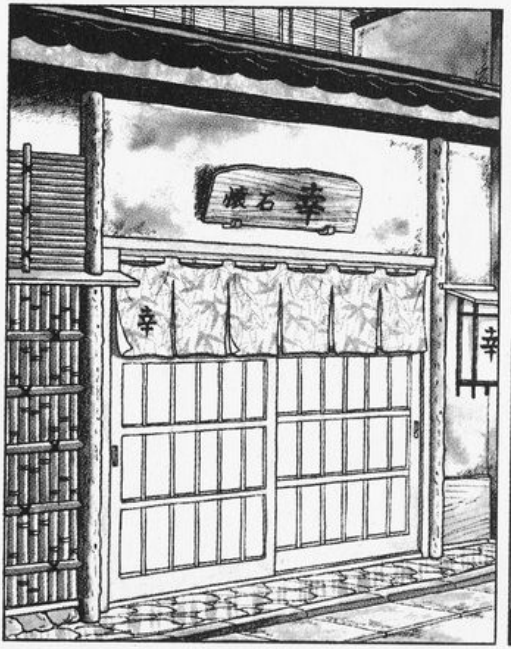


HEY, HOLD UP, BUDDY.
UNDERSTOOD, BOSS.


WITHIN A WEEK, YOU SAY?
WITHIN A WEEK, PRESENT ME WITH A SATISFACTORY PROGRESS REPORT. IF IT DOESN'T MEET MY EXPECTATIONS, THIS PROJECT IS TOAST!!

!

I WANT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE TONIGHT AT HALF-PAST FIVE.
YAMAOKA AND KURITA, I BELIEVE.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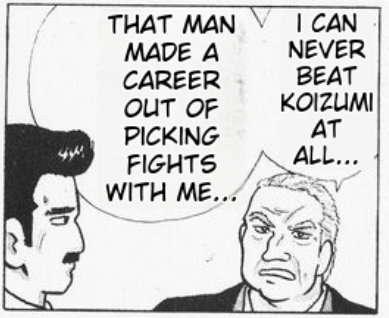
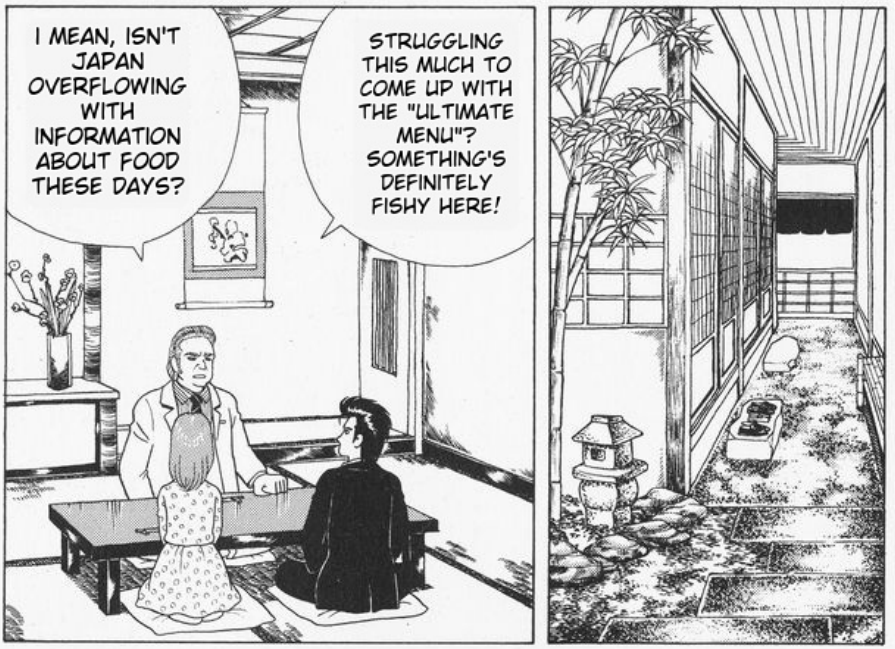
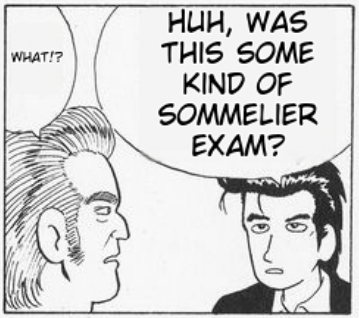
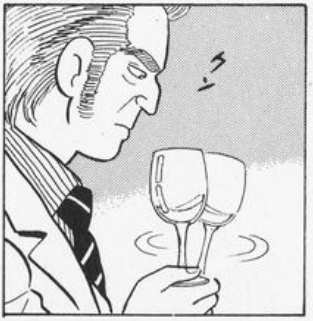

THAT MAN MADE A CAREER OUT OF PICKING FIGHTS WITH ME...
I CAN NEVER BEAT KOIZUMI AT ALL...

.....


I MEAN, ISN'T JAPAN OVERFLOWING WITH INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD THESE DAYS?
STRUGGLING THIS MUCH TO COME UP WITH THE "ULTIMATE MENU"? SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY FISHY HERE!

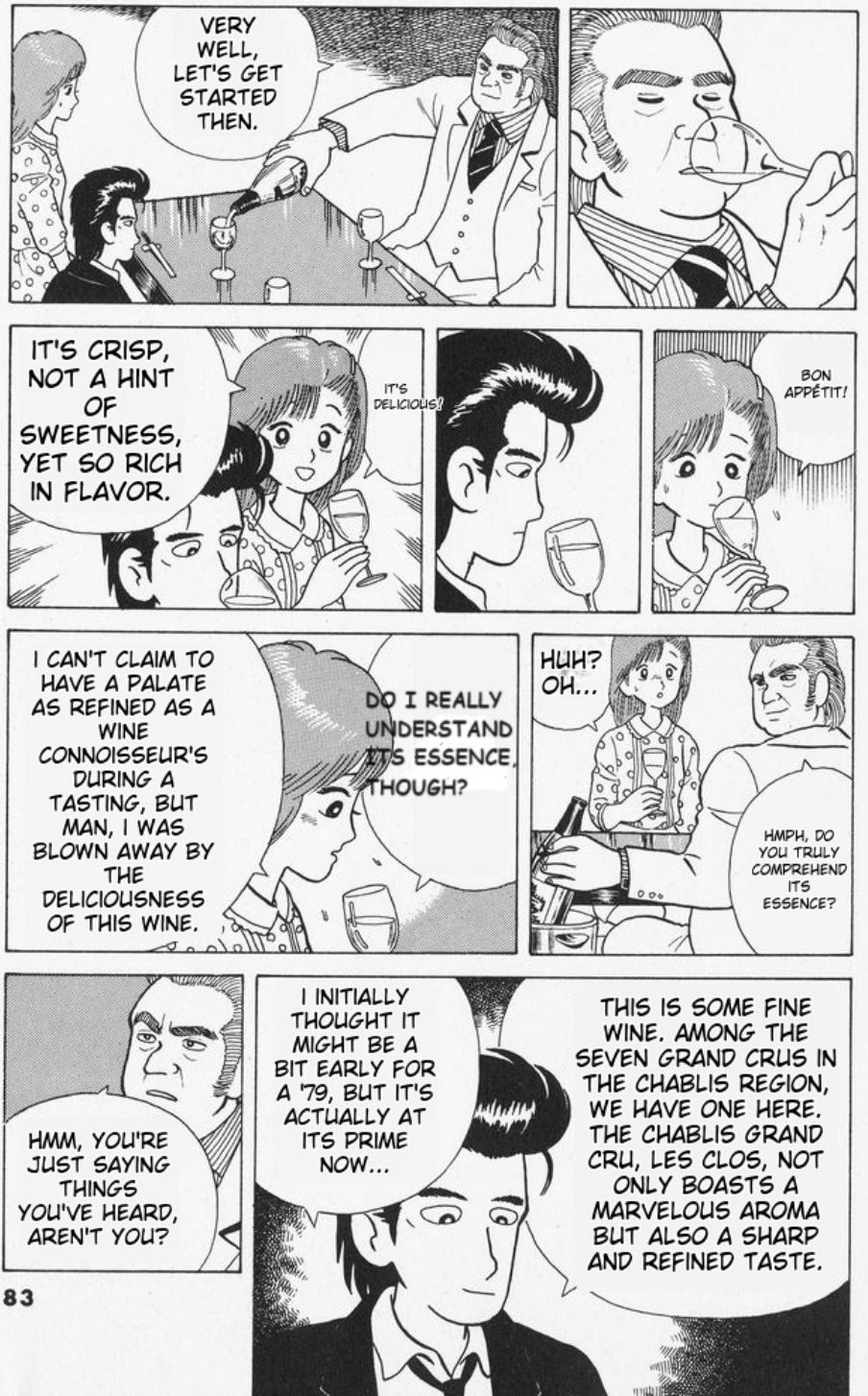
DIRECTOR TANIMURA CLAIMED YOU PASSED THE TEST FOR CREATING THE "ULTIMATE MENU," BUT I'LL BE DARNED IF I DON'T GIVE IT A SHOT MYSELF.
YOU GUYS PROBABLY KNOW SQUAT ABOUT FOOD, SO EVEN IF I WANT TO CREATE A MENU, I'M COMPLETELY AT A LOSS.

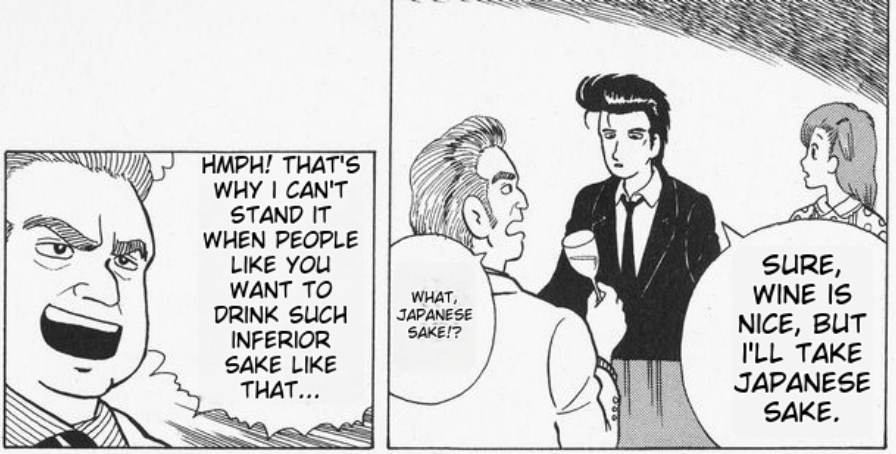




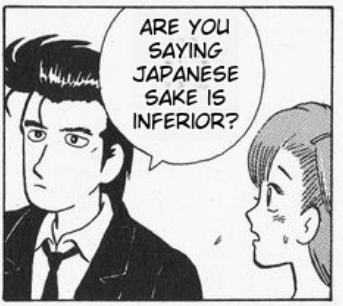
A SOMMELIER IS AN EXPERT IN RESTAURANT WINE SERVICE.

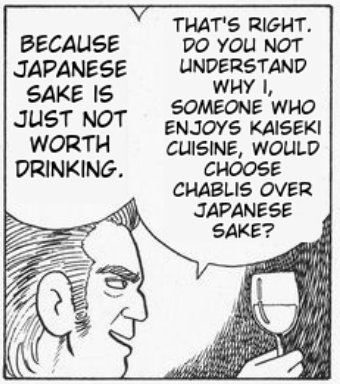
HEY, 'OISHINBO 4'!

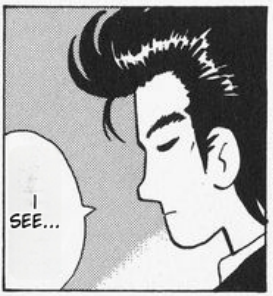



HMPH! THAT'S WHY I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN PEOPLE LIKE YOU WANT TO DRINK SUCH INFERIOR SAKE LIKE THAT...
WHAT, JAPANESE SAKE!?
SURE, WINE IS NICE, BUT I'LL TAKE JAPANESE SAKE.

AFTER ALMOST TWENTY YEARS IN WESTERN EUROPE, WHEN I CAME BACK TO JAPAN AND HAD JAPANESE SAKE, I WAS DISAPPOINTED.
I GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY AND IMMEDIATELY GOT SENT TO THE PARIS BRANCH OF THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER. BACK IN MY STUDENT DAYS, I NEVER TOUCHED ALCOHOL. IT WAS IN PARIS WHERE MY JOURNEY WITH WINE BEGAN.
IT LACKS AROMA, TASTES WEIRDLY SWEET, FEELS SLOPPY, LACKS ELEGANCE. AFTER JUST ONE CUP, I'M COMPLETELY FED UP, NEVER WANTING TO SMELL IT AGAIN.

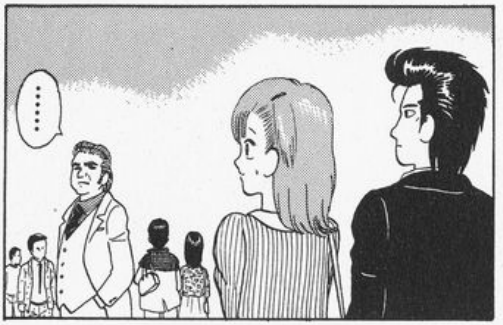

ARE YOU SAYING JAPANESE SAKE IS INFERIOR?

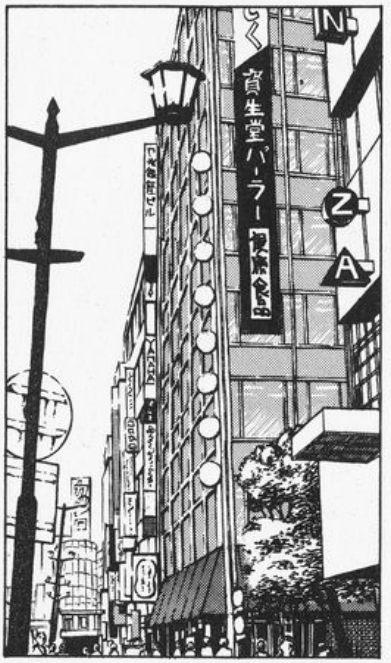

BECAUSE JAPANESE SAKE IS JUST NOT WORTH DRINKING.
THAT'S RIGHT. DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND WHY I, SOMEONE WHO ENJOYS KAISEKI CUISINE, WOULD CHOOSE CHABLIS OVER JAPANESE SAKE?

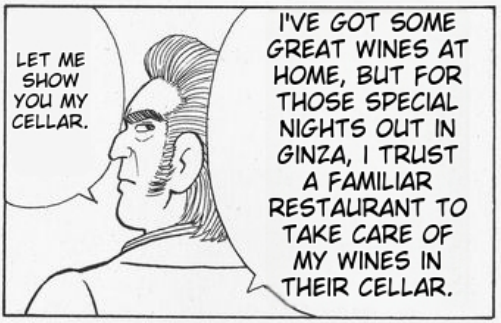

I SEE...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I ONLY DRINK TOP-GRADE SAKE FROM FAMOUS MAJOR MANUFACTURERS THAT ARE HEAVILY PROMOTED ON TV AND IN NEWSPAPERS!
HMM... SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE ONLY BEEN DRINKING STRANGE SAKE.

WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING? IT'S COMMON SENSE WORLDWIDE THAT DRY WHITE WINE PAIRS WELL WITH SEAFOOD.
OH... WHITE WINE GOES WELL WITH FISH DISHES?
THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED TO DRINK CHABLIS OR POUILLY-FUISSE WHITE WINES WITH JAPANESE CUISINE. THEY COMPLEMENT FISH DISHES PERFECTLY.
TOMORROW, I WANT YOU TO TRY THE SAKE I'LL BRING. IF YOU STILL THINK IT'S BAD, THEN WE CAN CALL OFF CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
RIDICULOUS! DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE SAKE CAN OUTSHINE WINE!?
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
I SEE, SO IT'S COMMON SENSE, HUH...
DIRECTOR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TEST YOU HAD PLANNED FOR US TODAY, BUT HOW ABOUT WE SKIP THAT AND SETTLE IT WITH A CHALLENGE OF SAKE VERSUS WINE?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HEY, HOLD ON! WHAT AUDACITY TO DISREGARD MY TEST AND LEAVE ON YOUR OWN ACCORD!
PREPARE A FEW BOTTLES OF YOUR FAVORITE WHITE WINE BY TOMORROW, BRING THE GOOD STUFF, ALRIGHT?







※カーヴ＝酒の貯蔵庫のこと。

IF THE TEMPERATURE RISES OR LIGHT HITS IT, THE WINE WILL GO BAD.
ALL THE WINES HERE ARE FLOWN IN, YOU KNOW. THEY'RE LIVING THINGS, SO WE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY. THAT'S WHAT THE CELLAR IS FOR.
AND IT'S DIMLY LIT...
IT'S COOL AND THE AIR FEELS MOIST...
OH, A CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE! I'VE BEEN CRAVING THIS, AND IT'S A 7-YEAR-OLD ONE!
HEY, HANDS OFF! THAT'S MY PRECIOUS COLLECTION. HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT'S WORTH?
WELL, THEN... HOW ABOUT THIS?
YOU ASKED FOR SOME FAVORITE WHITE WINE, DIDN'T YOU?
HEY, WE'VE GOT A '76 FROM MUSIGNY GENEVRIÈRES, AND SOME FINE ONES FROM CHABLIS TOO! HOW ABOUT A '15 FROM CHABLIS GRAND CRU LES CLOS!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOUR TIME'S UP, SO YOU BETTER DRINK THEM WHILE YOU CAN.

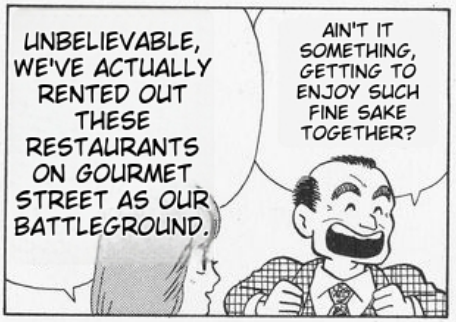
小学酒店
TODAY, YOUR ACTIONS HERE WILL REMAIN AS THEY ARE, YOURS ALONE WILL DETERMINE THE OUTCOME.

JUST THE SIGHT OF THE BOTTLE REMINDS ME OF THAT SLOPPY, FEEBLE TASTE THAT MADE ME FEEL SICK AS IT LINGERED ON MY TONGUE.
HMPH... JAPANESE SAKE IS SUCH A WORTHLESS DRINK, ISN'T IT?

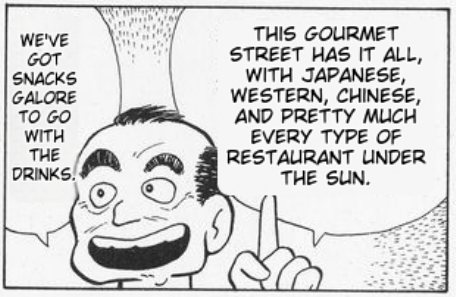
IT LACKS THE NOBILITY OF CHABLIS, THE RICHNESS OF CORTON, THE REFRESHING ESSENCE OF MEURSAULT, NOT EVEN A HINT OF THOSE QUALITIES.
IT'S NOTHING BUT A DRINK THEY CONSTANTLY ADVERTISE ON TV. I TRIED IT ONCE, AND IT WAS AWFUL.

HMPH, PURE RICE SAKE, HUH? MAKING JAPANESE SAKE FROM RICE IS A GIVEN, BUT DOING IT IN SUCH A CONTRIVED WAY...
AKINO
純米酒
君の井
米の心
蔵酒
升屋
IT REMINDS ME OF THE WINE WE HAD AT THAT RESTAURANT EARLIER.
THE INSIDE OF THE SHOP IS DIMLY LIT, WITH A MUSTY SMELL HANGING IN THE AIR...
I THINK I'LL TAKE THIS ONE TOO.
MR. YAMAOKA ALWAYS MANAGES TO BUY THE BEST STUFF, DOESN'T HE?
NUMBER THREE
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS SHOP? ALL THE BOTTLES ARE WRAPPED IN PAPER...

NEW GINZA


UNBELIEVABLE, WE'VE ACTUALLY RENTED OUT THESE RESTAURANTS ON GOURMET STREET AS OUR BATTLEGROUND.
AIN'T IT SOMETHING, GETTING TO ENJOY SUCH FINE SAKE TOGETHER?

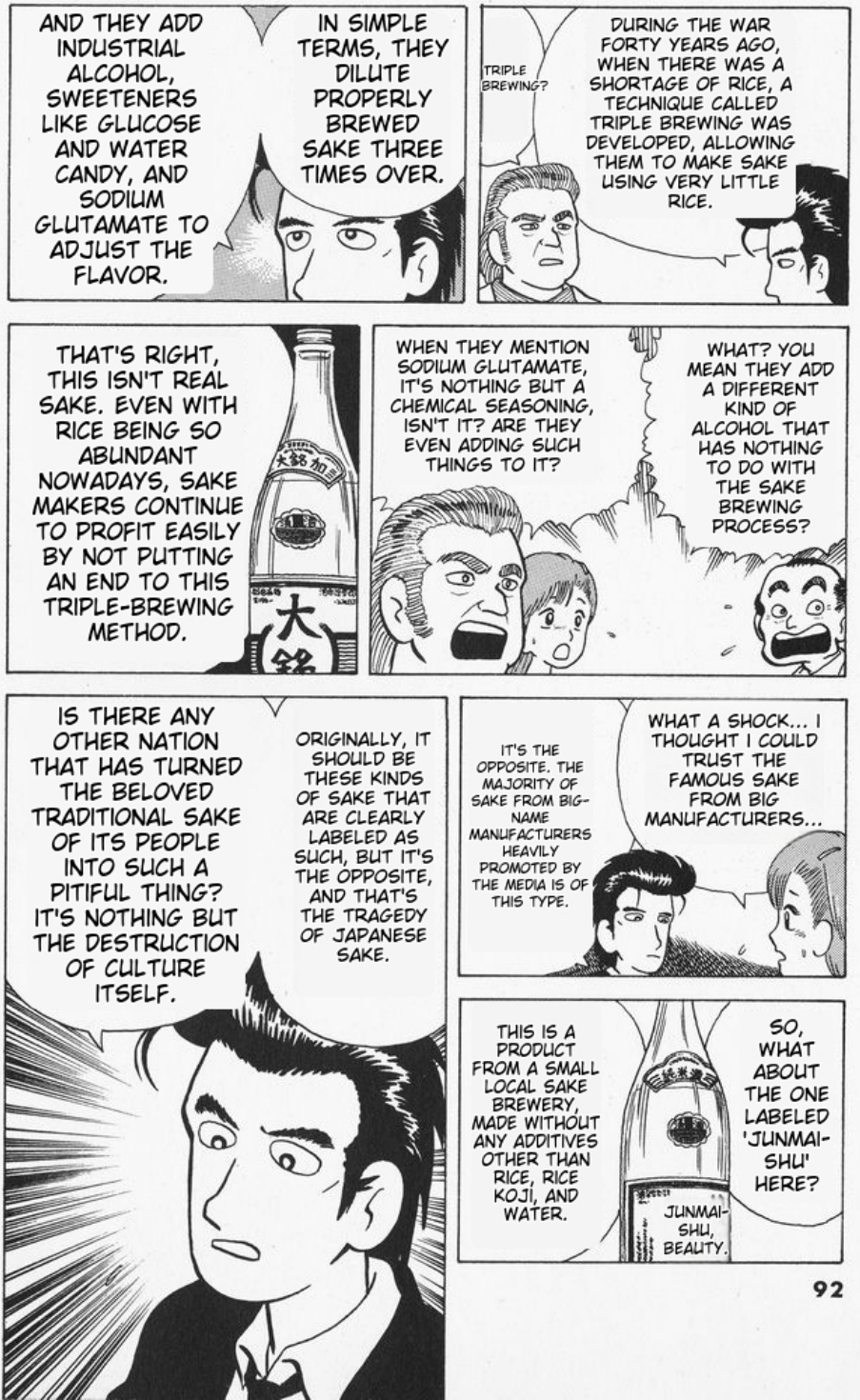
THE CHIEF'S FAVORITE WINES, FOUR BOTTLES, AND THE EIGHT BOTTLES OF JAPANESE SAKE I BROUGHT WILL BE PUT TO THE TEST. LET'S COMPARE AND SIP AWAY, STARTING NOW.


WE'VE GOT SNACKS GALORE TO GO WITH THE DRINKS.
THIS GOURMET STREET HAS IT ALL, WITH JAPANESE, WESTERN, CHINESE, AND PRETTY MUCH EVERY TYPE OF RESTAURANT UNDER THE SUN.

REMEMBER, ONCE WE'RE TIPSY, OUR SENSES GO HAYWIRE, SO POUR OUT THE SAKE YOU'VE TASTED INTO THE CONTAINERS BESIDE YOU.

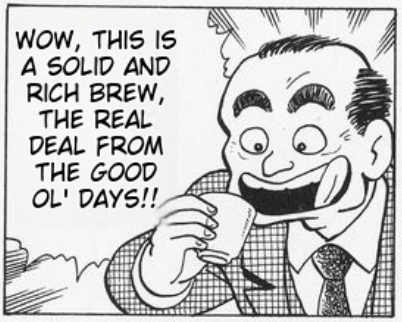
ALRIGHT, LET'S KICK THIS OFF WITH THE FLASHY, BIG-BRAND SAKE YOU'VE SEEN SPLASHED ALL OVER TV AND NEWSPAPERS.

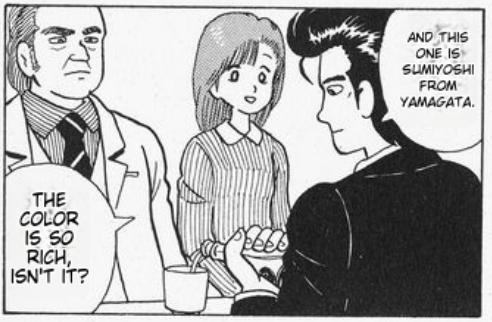
HEY, 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4.


AND THEY ADD INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL, SWEETENERS LIKE GLUCOSE AND WATER CANDY, AND SODIUM GLUTAMATE TO ADJUST THE FLAVOR.
IN SIMPLE TERMS, THEY DILUTE PROPERLY BREWED SAKE THREE TIMES OVER.
TRIPLE BREWING?
DURING THE WAR FORTY YEARS AGO, WHEN THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF RICE, A TECHNIQUE CALLED TRIPLE BREWING WAS DEVELOPED, ALLOWING THEM TO MAKE SAKE USING VERY LITTLE RICE.
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS ISN'T REAL SAKE. EVEN WITH RICE BEING SO ABUNDANT NOWADAYS, SAKE MAKERS CONTINUE TO PROFIT EASILY BY NOT PUTTING AN END TO THIS TRIPLE-BREWING METHOD.
WHEN THEY MENTION SODIUM GLUTAMATE, IT'S NOTHING BUT A CHEMICAL SEASONING, ISN'T IT? ARE THEY EVEN ADDING SUCH THINGS TO IT?
WHAT? YOU MEAN THEY ADD A DIFFERENT KIND OF ALCOHOL THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SAKE BREWING PROCESS?
IS THERE ANY OTHER NATION THAT HAS TURNED THE BELOVED TRADITIONAL SAKE OF ITS PEOPLE INTO SUCH A PITIFUL THING? IT'S NOTHING BUT THE DESTRUCTION OF CULTURE ITSELF.
ORIGINALLY, IT SHOULD BE THESE KINDS OF SAKE THAT ARE CLEARLY LABELED AS SUCH, BUT IT'S THE OPPOSITE, AND THAT'S THE TRAGEDY OF JAPANESE SAKE.
IT'S THE OPPOSITE. THE MAJORITY OF SAKE FROM BIG-NAME MANUFACTURERS HEAVILY PROMOTED BY THE MEDIA IS OF THIS TYPE.
WHAT A SHOCK... I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST THE FAMOUS SAKE FROM BIG MANUFACTURERS...
THIS IS A PRODUCT FROM A SMALL LOCAL SAKE BREWERY, MADE WITHOUT ANY ADDITIVES OTHER THAN RICE, RICE KOJI, AND WATER.
JUNMAI-SHU, BEAUTY.
SO, WHAT ABOUT THE ONE LABELED 'JUNMAI-SHU' HERE?

WHAT? ISN'T IT THE SAME JUNMAI SAKE AS BEFORE?
PLEASE, HAVE A TASTE.
DOES THAT MEAN I'VE BEEN CRITICIZING WITHOUT EVER DRINKING REAL JAPANESE SAKE?
ABSOLUTELY... PITIFUL, ISN'T IT...
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BOTTLE FROM EARLIER WAS WRAPPED IN PAPER. THINK BACK TO THOSE TWO LIQUOR STORES AND COMPARE.
THIS IS SAKE I BOUGHT FROM THAT SUNNY LIQUOR STORE, NOT WRAPPED IN PAPER.
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S THE SAME SAKE BUT TASTES TERRIBLY BAD!
EVEN THE FINE WINE WILL DIE, BECOMING UNDRINKABLE.
THAT'S RIGHT, GENUINE JAPANESE SAKE DOESN'T CONTAIN PRESERVATIVES OR ANTIOXIDANTS. IF MOST LIQUOR STORES LEAVE IT OUT IN PLACES WITHOUT PROPER TEMPERATURE CONTROL LIKE THAT WINE, WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN?
I SEE, THE SHOP WHERE I BOUGHT THE MORE DELICIOUS BOTTLE IS SO DIM, IT'S LIKE THE CELLAR WHERE THE CHIEF STORES HIS WINES... IT'S ALL ABOUT STORAGE, ISN'T IT?
LIES, DECEIT, AND INSENSITIVITY... JAPANESE DRINKERS WHO CAN'T SEE THROUGH SUCH THINGS ARE THE WORST, AREN'T THEY?
I'M STARTING TO FEEL A BIT GLOOMY...
THIS IS ANOTHER TRAGEDY OF JAPANESE SAKE; JUST LIKE THE BREWING MANUFACTURERS, RETAIL LIQUOR STORES DON'T CHERISH SAKE AT ALL. WITH THIS ATTITUDE, EVEN IF CONSCIENTIOUS BREWERS MAKE GOOD SAKE, THE SAKE ENDS UP PITIFUL.

WELL, NO NEED TO BE SO PESSIMISTIC. HERE, I'VE BROUGHT SOME AMAZING SAKE, PLEASE GIVE IT A TRY.

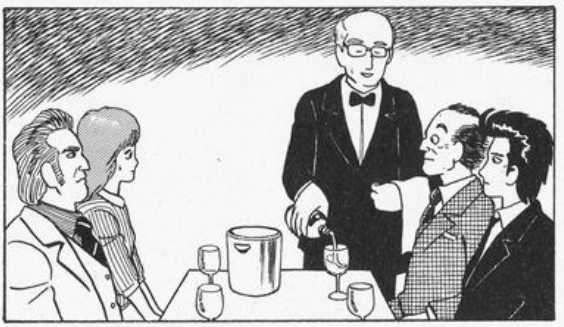

WOW, THIS IS A SOLID AND RICH BREW, THE REAL DEAL FROM THE GOOD OL' DAYS!!

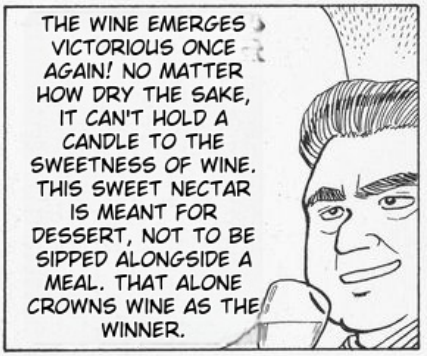

AND THIS ONE IS SUMIYOSHI FROM YAMAGATA.
THE COLOR IS SO RICH, ISN'T IT?

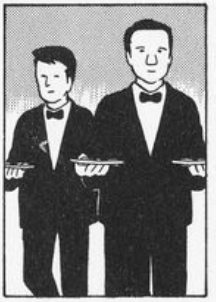
THIS IS THE FOUR SEASONS SAKURA FROM TOCHIGI, THE FLOWER TREASURE. IT'S A MASTERPIECE BREWED ONLY ONE BARREL PER YEAR.
WHAT A GLAMOROUS DRINK! I'VE DECIDED TO SAVOR IT WITHOUT SPITTING IT OUT!!
A FULL-BODIED AROMA THAT SPREADS DEEP INTO THE NOSTRILS!

THIS IS THE DAIGINJO FROM KIKU HIME IN ISHIKAWA.

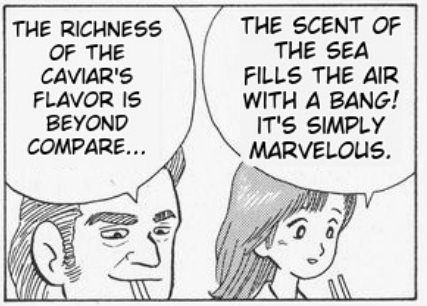
OH, WHAT A FRAGRANCE LIKE FRUITY LIQUOR, AND A RICH TASTE THAT HITS THE SPOT... I NEVER KNEW JAPANESE SAKE COULD BE THIS GOOD!



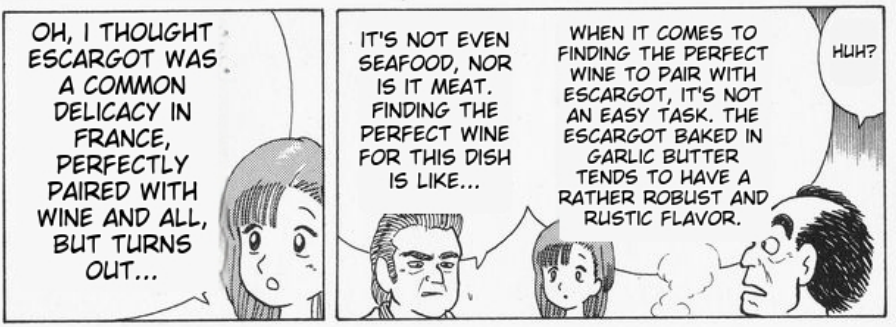




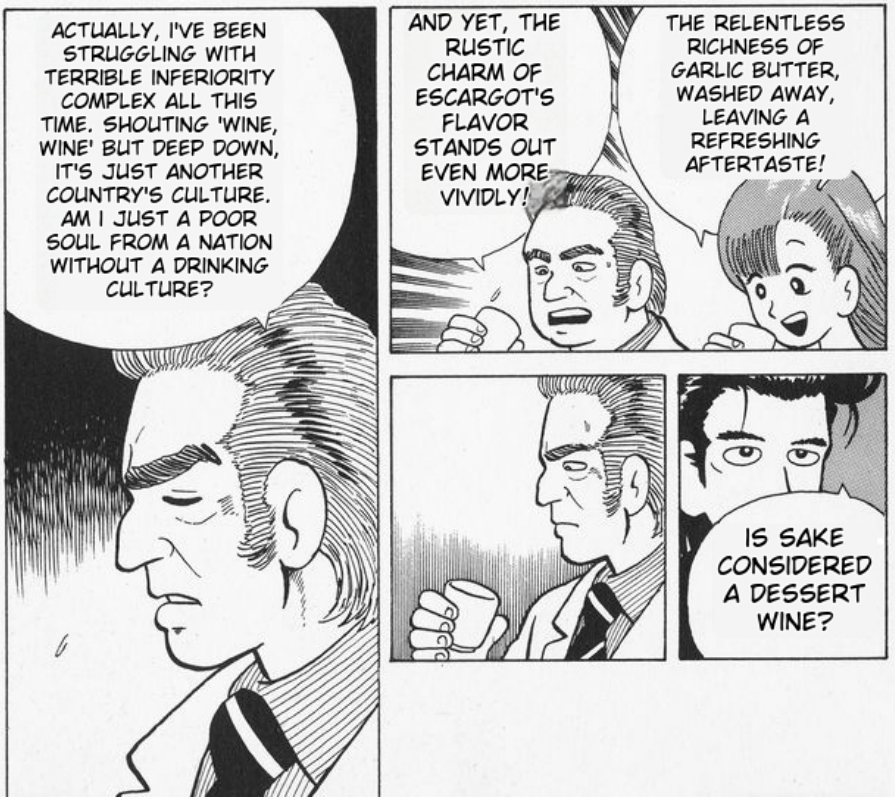
KUCHINA NO MONO KUCHI, TAMONO I



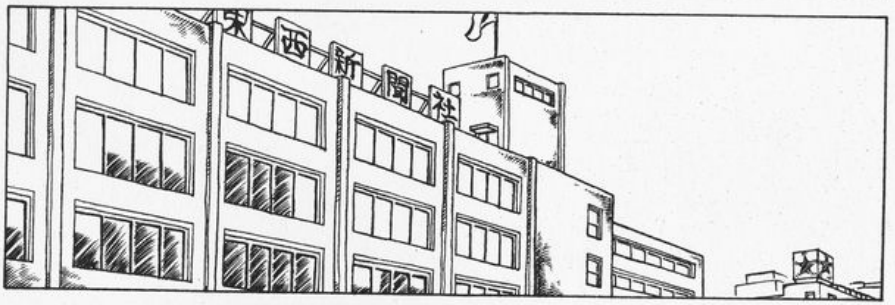
HERE, THIS IS A PROPER SAKE, SHIRATAKA'S FINEST 'GOKUJOU.' GIVE IT A TRY AFTER HAVING ANOTHER BITE OF THAT DISH.
UGH, IT'S FISHY, A NASTY FISHY SMELL IN MY MOUTH!
THIS WON'T DO, IT DOESN'T GO WELL WITH WINE.
WHEN IT COMES TO SEAFOOD, NOTHING BEATS SAKE IN JAPAN, THEY SAY CHABLIS GOES WELL WITH FRESH OYSTERS, BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS. AT LEAST FOR ME, DRINKING CHABLIS AFTER FRESH OYSTERS MAKES IT ALL FISHY AND GROSS.
FAR FROM GETTING FISHY, IT ACTUALLY ENHANCES THE FLAVOR OF THE SEAFOOD EVEN MORE!
MMM...
THE TASTE OF THE ESCARGOT BECOMES EVEN RICHER!
HMM... BUT WITH JUST THIS...
PERHAPS ONE OF THE ORGANIC ACID SALTS IN IT SOMEHOW ACCENTUATES THE FISHY SMELL OF SEAFOOD.
WINE CONTAINS FAR MORE ORGANIC ACID SALTS COMPARED TO SAKE, THAT'S THE SECRET OF ITS RICH FLAVOR.
WHY COULD THAT BE?
HE TRICKED ME.
EXACTLY. DIRECTOR, WHAT WINE GOES WITH ESCARGOT?
ESCARGOT?


OH, I THOUGHT ESCARGOT WAS A COMMON DELICACY IN FRANCE, PERFECTLY PAIRED WITH WINE AND ALL, BUT TURNS OUT...
IT'S NOT EVEN SEAFOOD, NOR IS IT MEAT. FINDING THE PERFECT WINE FOR THIS DISH IS LIKE...
WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING THE PERFECT WINE TO PAIR WITH ESCARGOT, IT'S NOT AN EASY TASK. THE ESCARGOT BAKED IN GARLIC BUTTER TENDS TO HAVE A RATHER ROBUST AND RUSTIC FLAVOR.
HUH?

GIVE THIS A WHIRL - PAIR UP THIS KOSHINO SHIKAROKU WITH SOME ESCARGOT!
AS THE CHIEF SAYS, NEITHER CHABLIS NOR MEURSAULT NOR POUILLY-FUISSÉ PAIRS WELL WITH ESCARGOT. EVEN RED WINE NEEDS TO BE QUITE ROBUST TO MATCH IT...


ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH TERRIBLE INFERIORITY COMPLEX ALL THIS TIME. SHOUTING 'WINE, WINE' BUT DEEP DOWN, IT'S JUST ANOTHER COUNTRY'S CULTURE. AM I JUST A POOR SOUL FROM A NATION WITHOUT A DRINKING CULTURE?
AND YET, THE RUSTIC CHARM OF ESCARGOT'S FLAVOR STANDS OUT EVEN MORE VIVIDLY!
THE RELENTLESS RICHNESS OF GARLIC BUTTER, WASHED AWAY, LEAVING A REFRESHING AFTERTASTE!
IS SAKE CONSIDERED A DESSERT WINE?

YAMAOKA, I APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS.
AT THIS RIPE OLD AGE, I'VE REDISCOVERED THE SPLENDID SAKE CULTURE JAPAN HAS TO OFFER.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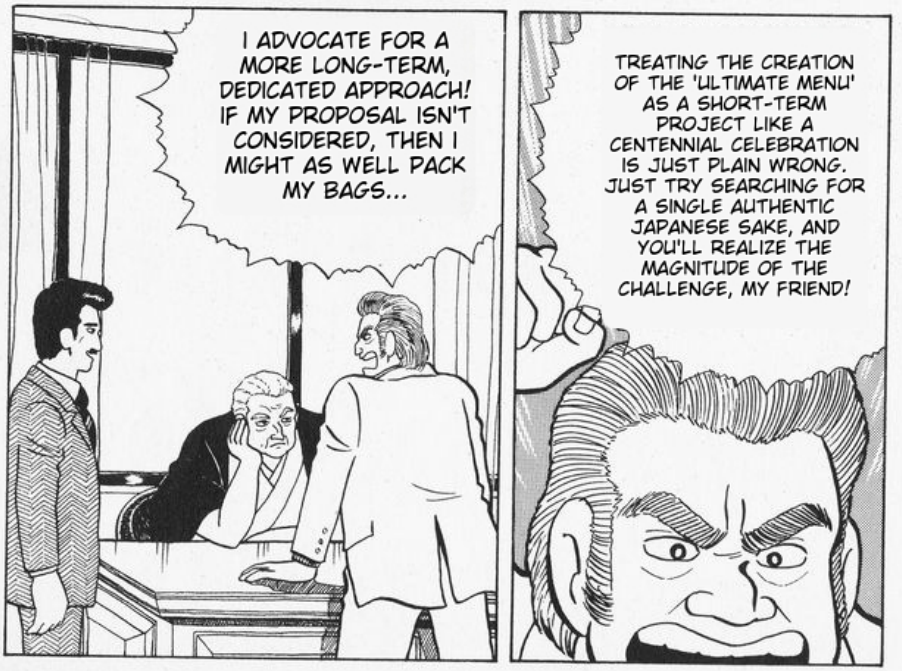
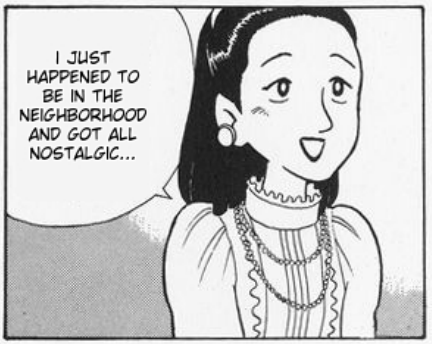

I ADVOCATE FOR A MORE LONG-TERM, DEDICATED APPROACH! IF MY PROPOSAL ISN'T CONSIDERED, THEN I MIGHT AS WELL PACK MY BAGS...
TREATING THE CREATION OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AS A SHORT-TERM PROJECT LIKE A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IS JUST PLAIN WRONG. JUST TRY SEARCHING FOR A SINGLE AUTHENTIC JAPANESE SAKE, AND YOU'LL REALIZE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CHALLENGE, MY FRIEND!

第5話

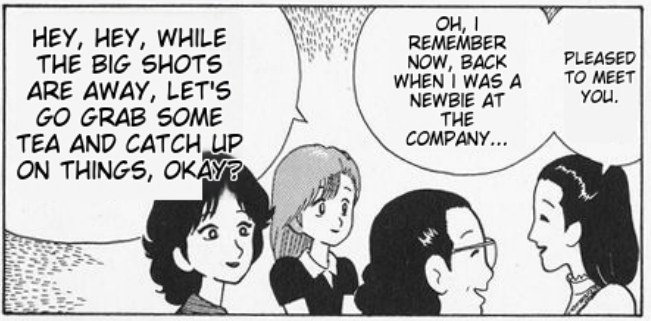
食卓の広がり

関西新聞社


I JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND GOT ALL NOSTALGIC...

YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH!
SHINAKO, YOU LOOK AMAZING, LIKE A WEALTHY YOUNG LADY NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT!

OH, AND WHO IS THIS?
THIS IS OUR NEW RECRUIT, YUKO KURITA.

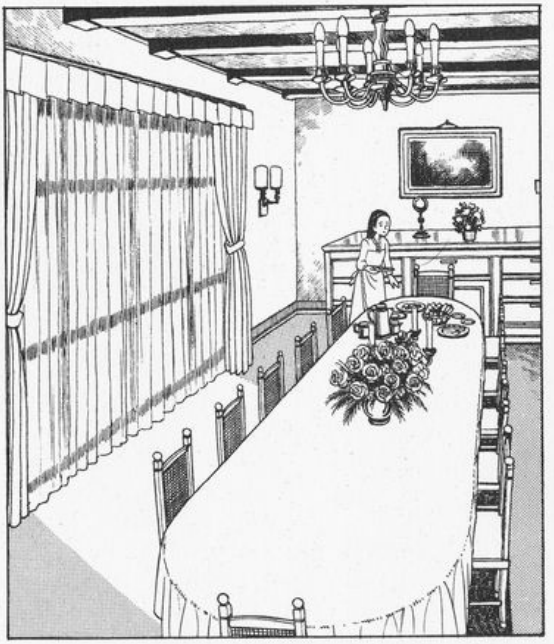

HEY, HEY, WHILE THE BIG SHOTS ARE AWAY, LET'S GO GRAB SOME TEA AND CATCH UP ON THINGS, OKAY?
OH, I REMEMBER NOW, BACK WHEN I WAS A NEWBIE AT THE COMPANY...
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

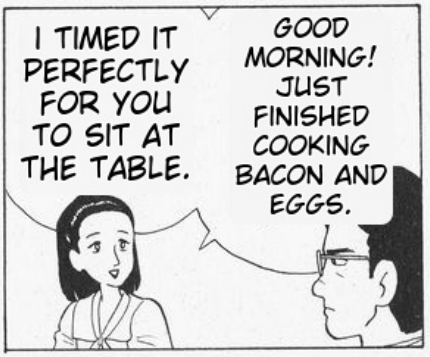
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M KURITA. LET'S WORK WELL TOGETHER.

MR. MAYAMA IS THE SECOND-GENERATION PRESIDENT IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, WITH OUTSTANDING BUSINESS ACUMEN, HIGHLY RESPECTED IN THE FINANCIAL WORLD. IT SEEMS THAT THROUGH THE MANUSCRIPT REQUEST, HE TOOK NOTICE OF MAYAMA AND THEY GOT MARRIED.
SHINKO MAYAMA, FORMERLY KNOWN AS HAYASHI, WAS IN THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT UNTIL THE YEAR BEFORE I JOINED. IN THE CULTURAL SECTION, THERE'S A COLUMN WHERE FAMOUS FIGURES FROM VARIOUS FIELDS WRITE A SERIES OF ESSAYS IN DIARY FORM. MAYAMA WAS IN CHARGE OF THAT SECTION AND REQUESTED A MANUSCRIPT FROM MR. MAYAMA, THE PRESIDENT OF 'DAIBOSHI REAL ESTATE'.
MR. YAMAOKA.
!
UM... HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
LONG TIME NO SEE.
OH, HAYASHI.

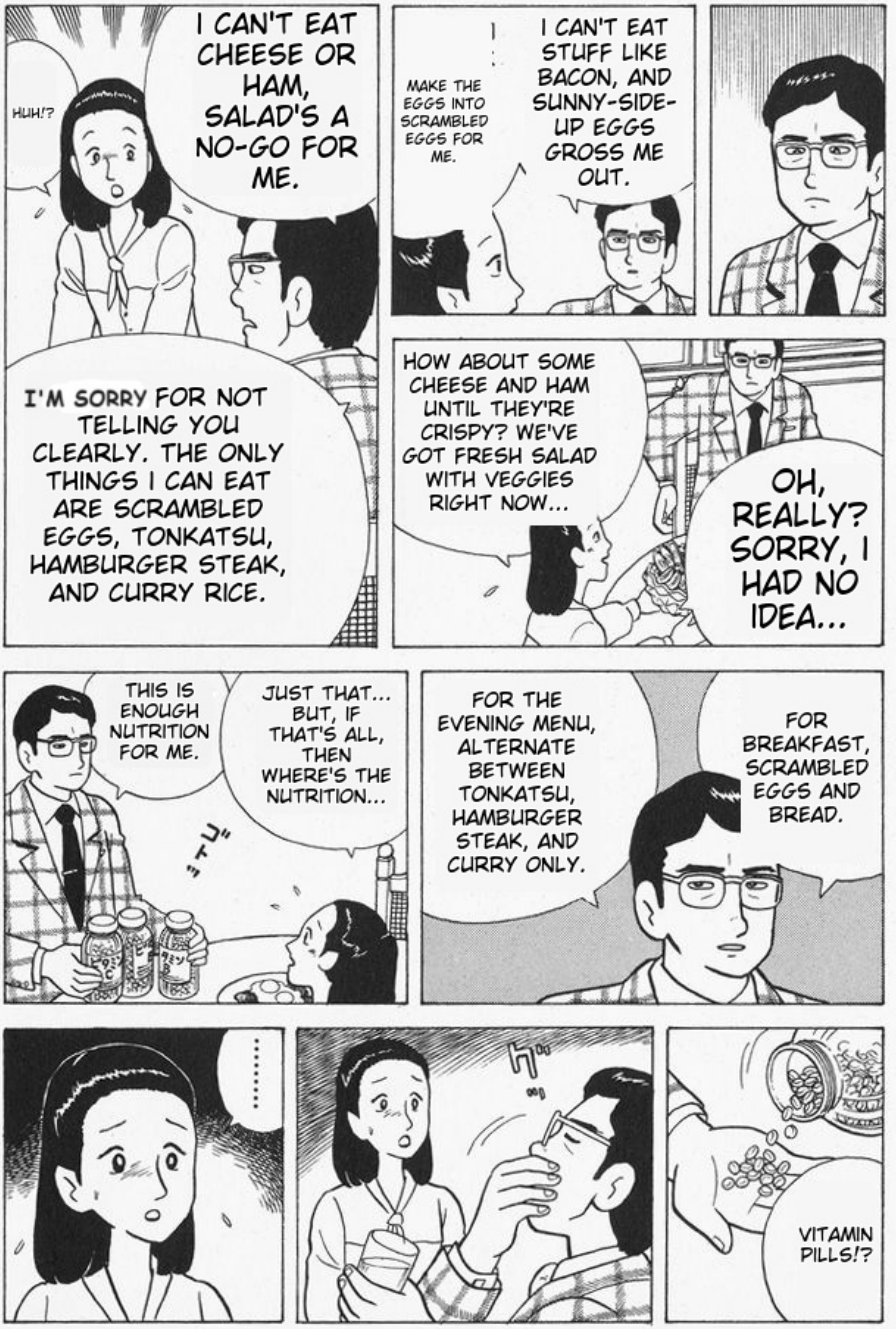
NOT SO MUCH.
I'M DOING WELL, BUT THOSE HORSE GUYS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. SHE LIKED YAMAOKA-SAN?
I'M SHOCKED, I HAD NO IDEA.
WHAT, SHINKO LIKED ... YAMAOKA!?
I LIKED MR. YAMAOKA, BUT HE NEVER NOTICED AT ALL.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS...
MY HUSBAND TREATS ME SO KINDLY, I TRULY BELIEVE HE LOVES ME... BUT...
IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE AFTER ALL.
SO WHEN MY HUSBAND PROPOSED TO ME, I HAD TO LET GO OF MR. YAMAOKA AND GET MARRIED...
COFFEE SHOP
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
ARE YOU NOT GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR HUSBAND?

ON THE MORNING AFTER OUR RETURN FROM THE HONEYMOON...

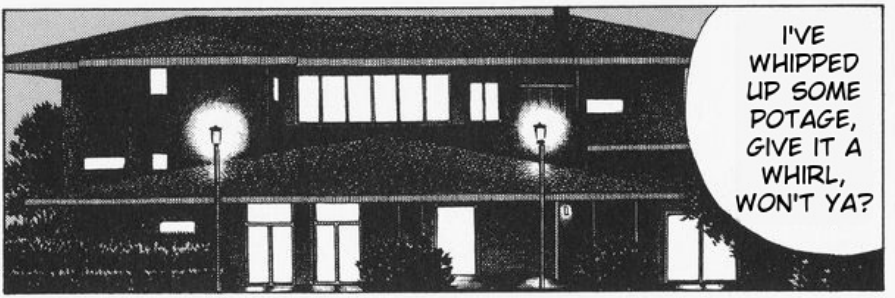


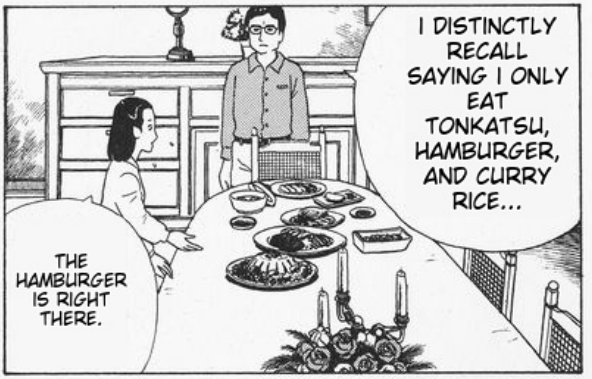

I TIMED IT PERFECTLY FOR YOU TO SIT AT THE TABLE.
GOOD MORNING! JUST FINISHED COOKING BACON AND EGGS.

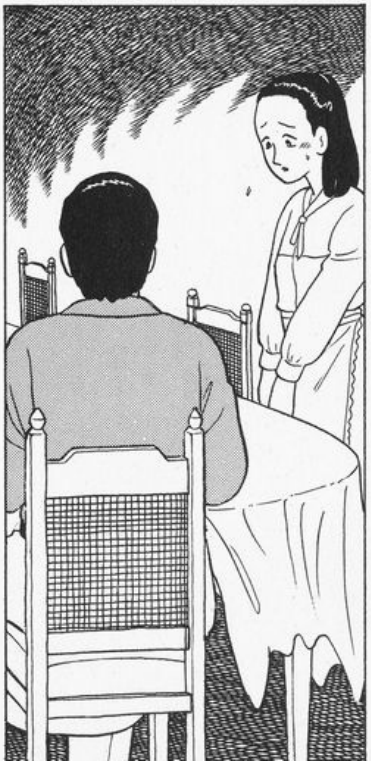
HIROKAZU MAYAMA (34), PRESIDENT OF DAIBOSHI REAL ESTATE.


I CAN'T EAT CHEESE OR HAM, SALAD'S A NO-GO FOR ME.
HUH!?
I'M SORRY FOR NOT TELLING YOU CLEARLY. THE ONLY THINGS I CAN EAT ARE SCRAMBLED EGGS, TONKATSU, HAMBURGER STEAK, AND CURRY RICE.
I CAN'T EAT STUFF LIKE BACON, AND SUNNY-SIDE-UP EGGS GROSS ME OUT.
MAKE THE EGGS INTO SCRAMBLED EGGS FOR ME.
HOW ABOUT SOME CHEESE AND HAM UNTIL THEY'RE CRISPY? WE'VE GOT FRESH SALAD WITH VEGGIES RIGHT NOW...
OH, REALLY? SORRY, I HAD NO IDEA...
THIS IS ENOUGH NUTRITION FOR ME.
JUST THAT... BUT, IF THAT'S ALL, THEN WHERE'S THE NUTRITION...
FOR BREAKFAST, SCRAMBLED EGGS AND BREAD.
FOR THE EVENING MENU, ALTERNATE BETWEEN TONKATSU, HAMBURGER STEAK, AND CURRY ONLY.
.....
VITAMIN PILLS!?

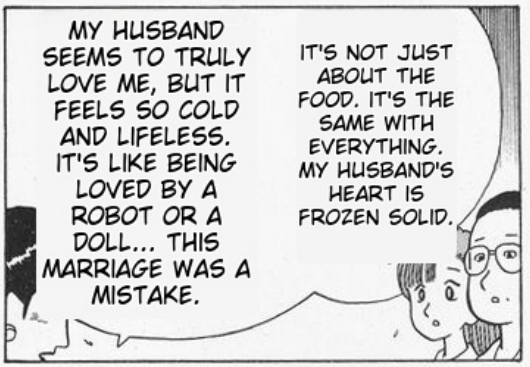
HEY, 'OISHINBO'
VOLUME 4.







JUST IMAGINE, IN A GRAND AND LUXURIOUS DINING HALL, UNDER THE SPARKLING CHANDELIERS, ONLY GETTING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TONKATSU, HAMBURGER, OR CURRY...
HEY.
HEY, ISN'T IT GREAT? PREPARING DINNER IS THE BIGGEST BURDEN FOR A HOUSEWIFE. IT COULDN'T GET ANY EASIER, RIGHT?

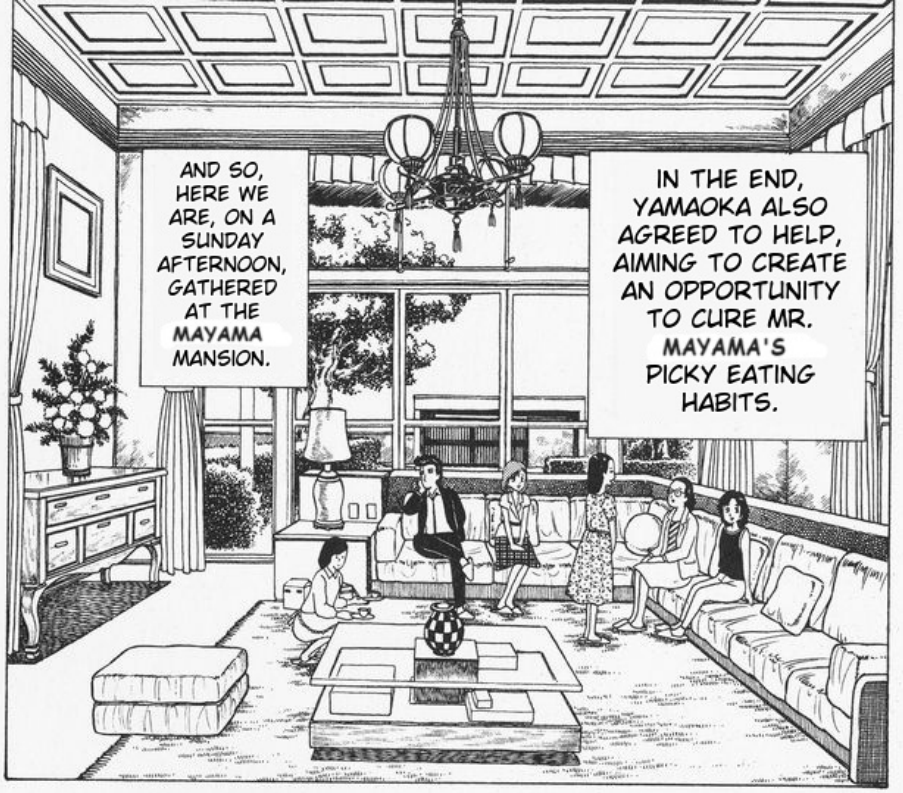

MY HUSBAND SEEMS TO TRULY LOVE ME, BUT IT FEELS SO COLD AND LIFELESS. IT'S LIKE BEING LOVED BY A ROBOT OR A DOLL... THIS MARRIAGE WAS A MISTAKE.
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE FOOD. IT'S THE SAME WITH EVERYTHING. MY HUSBAND'S HEART IS FROZEN SOLID.

IT'S TOO DREARY, IT SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE...
MY DAD WAS A POOR SALARYMAN, LIVING IN A SHABBY 2DK PUBLIC HOUSING. BUT IN OUR DINING KITCHEN, ADORNED WITH MY MOTHER'S HOMEMADE DISHES, OUR HEARTS WERE RICH...

SHINKO...

WELL, WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD...
YAMAOKA'S HELP?
LET'S SEEK YAMAOKA'S HELP.

A DUTY? WHY ME?
YAMAOKA-SAN, YOU HAVE A DUTY TO HELP HAYASHI-SAN!
YAMAOKA-SAN, PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU.
GEEZ, PEOPLE WITH EXTREME PICKY EATING HABITS OFTEN HAVE SOME MENTAL ISSUES. I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH THAT.
I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT SHINAKO-SAN LIKES HIM... WHAT DO I DO?
TH-THAT'S...!
YOU MAY HAVE A DISCERNING PALATE, BUT IF YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S HEARTS, WELL, THAT'S JUST A TWISTED MIND. I DON'T WANT TO ASSOCIATE WITH SUCH PEOPLE!
FINE, I GET IT. YOU'RE COLD-HEARTED. IGNORING A FORMER COLLEAGUE WHO'S ASKING FOR HELP, HOW HEARTLESS!
DARN IT!
.....


AND SO, HERE WE ARE, ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON, GATHERED AT THE MAYAMA MANSION.
IN THE END, YAMAOKA ALSO AGREED TO HELP, AIMING TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CURE MR. MAYAMA'S PICKY EATING HABITS.

OH, COME ON, DON'T SAY THAT...
SO THIS IS THE MANSION OF A BIG SHOT, HUH.

WOW, THIS IS AN INSANELY HUGE MANSION!
YOU GUYS REALLY CAME AT A GOOD TIME. MY HUSBAND JUST STEPPED OUT FOR A QUICK ERRAND, BUT HE'LL BE BACK SOON...

YAMAOKA-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
REALLY, HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET HER HUSBAND TO CHANGE HIS PICKY EATING HABITS?

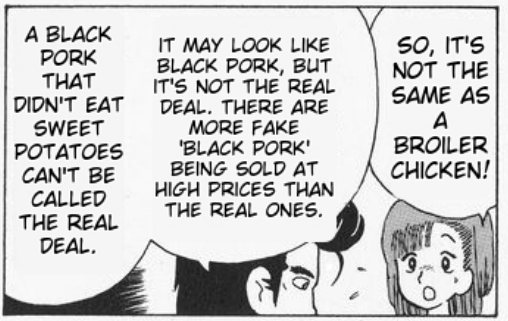
NOT REALLY...
WHOSE IS THIS?
SPINNING TOPS, MARBLES, AND TRADITIONAL PLAYING CARDS... BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
COVERING A RUBBER SHEET OVER A BUCKET, THAT'S QUITE THE SETUP.
HMM, A SPINNING TOP, HUH...
HE SOUNDS A BIT ECCENTRIC, DOESN'T HE?
IN HIS SPARE TIME, MY HUSBAND WILL SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY PLAYING WITH THOSE TOPS AND CARDS ALL BY HIMSELF... IT'S SO SAD AND ABNORMAL.
WELCOME, PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
HELLO, SORRY TO INTRUDE.
AH, SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING...

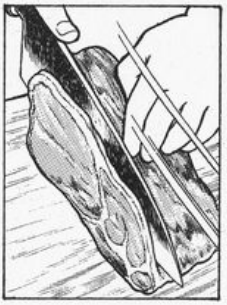
GOOD GOING.
OH, REALLY?
カカ
YOU SEEM TO REALLY LIKE IT.
FINE, WHAT SHALL WE WAGER?
SHALL WE HAVE A MATCH? EACH OF US WITH TEN CARDS.
RIDICULOUS TOYS LIKE THIS ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION... THAT'S WHY WHEN I FINALLY GAINED FREEDOM OVER EVERYTHING, I INEXPLICABLY STARTED TO CRAVE FOR THINGS LIKE THIS...
I SPENT MY LONELY BOYHOOD YEARS. I WAS DRILLED WITH EMPEROR EDUCATION TO BECOME A PRESIDENT EVEN BEFORE ENTERING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO PLAY WITH FRIENDS.
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT. MEN ARE TRULY INCOMPREHENSIBLE CREATURES...
WELL THEN, I'LL PUT UP MY COLLECTION OF SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS BASEBALL CARDS!!!
WHAT? THAT'S AMAZING!
I'VE GOT A COLLECTION OF MENKO CARDS FROM THE 1940S.
?

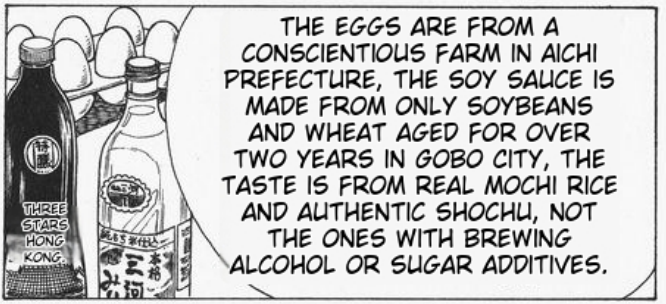
HEHE, THANKS FOR THE ANTIQUE MENKO!
I DON'T MIND IF YOU DON'T...
HUH? IS IT REALLY OKAY? IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATCH AT ALL...
IT'S A SHAME TO DECLINE, BUT I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND. I WANT YOU TO JOIN US FOR A MEAL.
ALRIGHT, LET'S DO THIS.
MM-MM
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN MY HUSBAND GET SO EXCITED...
I WOULD'VE LOVED TO HAVE PLAYED IN THE MUD WITH YOU RASCALS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S MY WIN. THE SKILLS I HONED FROM ROUGHHOUSING WITH TROUBLEMAKERS IN MY YOUTH ARE NO MATCH FOR YOU. IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
HOO! HOO!
TONKATSU, HUH... IN THAT CASE...
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL BORROW THE KITCHEN AND MAKE TONKATSU FROM NOW ON.
I FORGOT TO MENTION, BUT ACTUALLY I AM...
BY THE WAY, MY FRIEND, YOU'LL BE DINING WITH ME TONIGHT. HELP ME OUT.

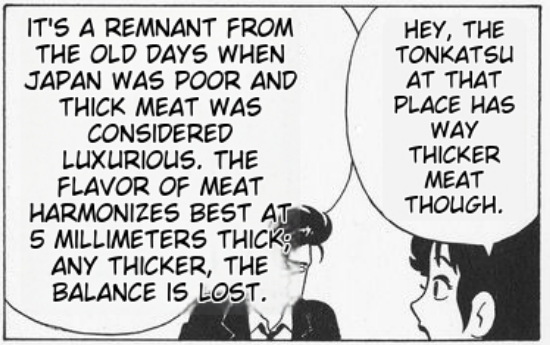
EVEN IF IT'S THE SAME TONKATSU, JUST CHANGING ITS SHAPE TO BITE-SIZE, HE'LL REFUSE TO EAT IT! HE WON'T EAT ANYTHING WITH VEGGIES LIKE KATSUDON!!!
KATSUDON!! MY HUSBAND CAN'T EAT KATSUDON.
WHY TONKATSU THOUGH? THAT WON'T HELP CURE MR. MAYAMA'S PICKY EATING HABITS.
IT'S NOT JUST ANY TONKATSU; IT'S FOR MAKING KATSUDON.
FIRST, IT'S PORK, SATSUMA KUROBUTA LOIN.
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
WHAT SETS APART THE KUROBUTA FROM SATSUMA IS THAT THEY FEED THEM PLENTY OF SWEET POTATOES, BARLEY, VEGETABLES, AND EVEN LEFTOVERS, LETTING THEM LEISURELY ROAM ON THE GROUND, KEEPING IT ALL NATURAL.
THE KUROBUTA ORIGINATED FROM BERKSHIRE PIGS THAT CAME FROM OVERSEAS DURING THE EDO PERIOD.
WITH SO MANY FAKE KUROBUTA AROUND THESE DAYS, IT'S BETTER TO BE CAUTIOUS.
IF IT'S KUROBUTA, YOU CAN FIND IT IN THE MEAT SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE.
HUH? FAKE KUROBUTA?
SO, THEY CRAM THEM IN A TIGHT SPACE. THIS LEADS TO ILLNESSES, SO THEY ADD ANTIBIOTICS AND GROWTH PROMOTERS TO THEIR FEED. SINCE THE COST OF FEED SURPASSES THE PROFIT FROM THE MEAT GAINED AFTER FOUR MONTHS, THEY OPT TO TURN THEM INTO MEAT IN FOUR MONTHS.
THE PIG FARMERS WHO NOTICED THE FAME OF KUROBUTA STARTED RAISING THEM BECAUSE THEY FETCH A GOOD PRICE. BUT KUROBUTA IS SMALL IN SIZE AND TO MAKE A PROFIT, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO LET THEM LEISURELY EAT SWEET POTATOES AND GROW IN A SPACIOUS AREA.

HEY, 'OISHINBO 4'!



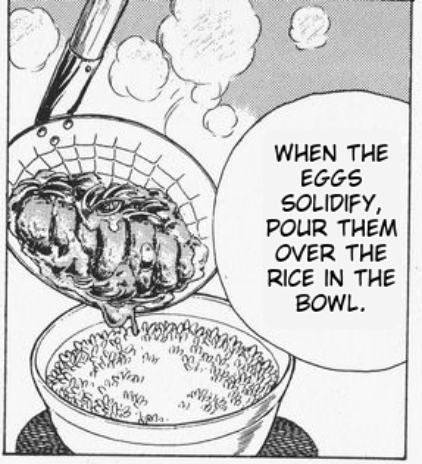




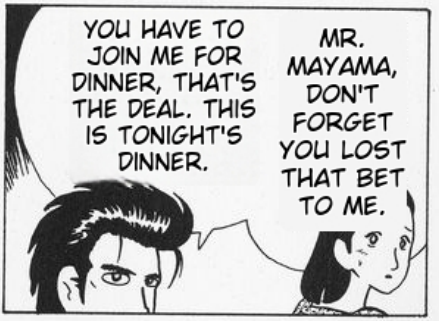


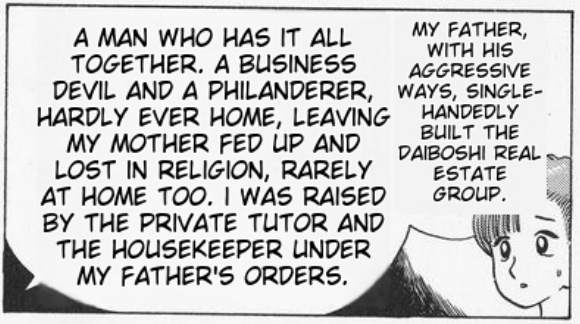
HEY, HAYASHI... I MEAN, MS. MAYAMA, FRY IT UP.
YES.
OH, EVERYONE SEEMS SO ENERGIZED. I THINK I'LL JOIN IN ON THE FUN AND OBSERVE...
POUR SOME BONITO BROTH, SOY SAUCE, AND SEASONING INTO THIS POT.
AFTER DRAINING THE OIL, SLICE THROUGH WITH A KNIFE.
HUH? WHY ARE YOU CUTTING IT THAT WAY?!
WHOA, STOP IT, THAT'S GROSSING ME OUT!!
WHEN THE ONIONS AND TONKATSU START DANCING, CRACK AN EGG OVER THEM!
LAY DOWN FINELY CHOPPED ONIONS, PLACE THE TONKATSU ON TOP, AND LET IT SIZZLE.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE HAVE A PRECIOUS TONKATSU HERE!

KATSUDON? NO WAY, I'M NOT EATING THAT!
ALL RIGHT, LOOKING GOOD! JUST NEED TO ADD SOME GREEN ONIONS, AND THE KATSUDON IS READY!

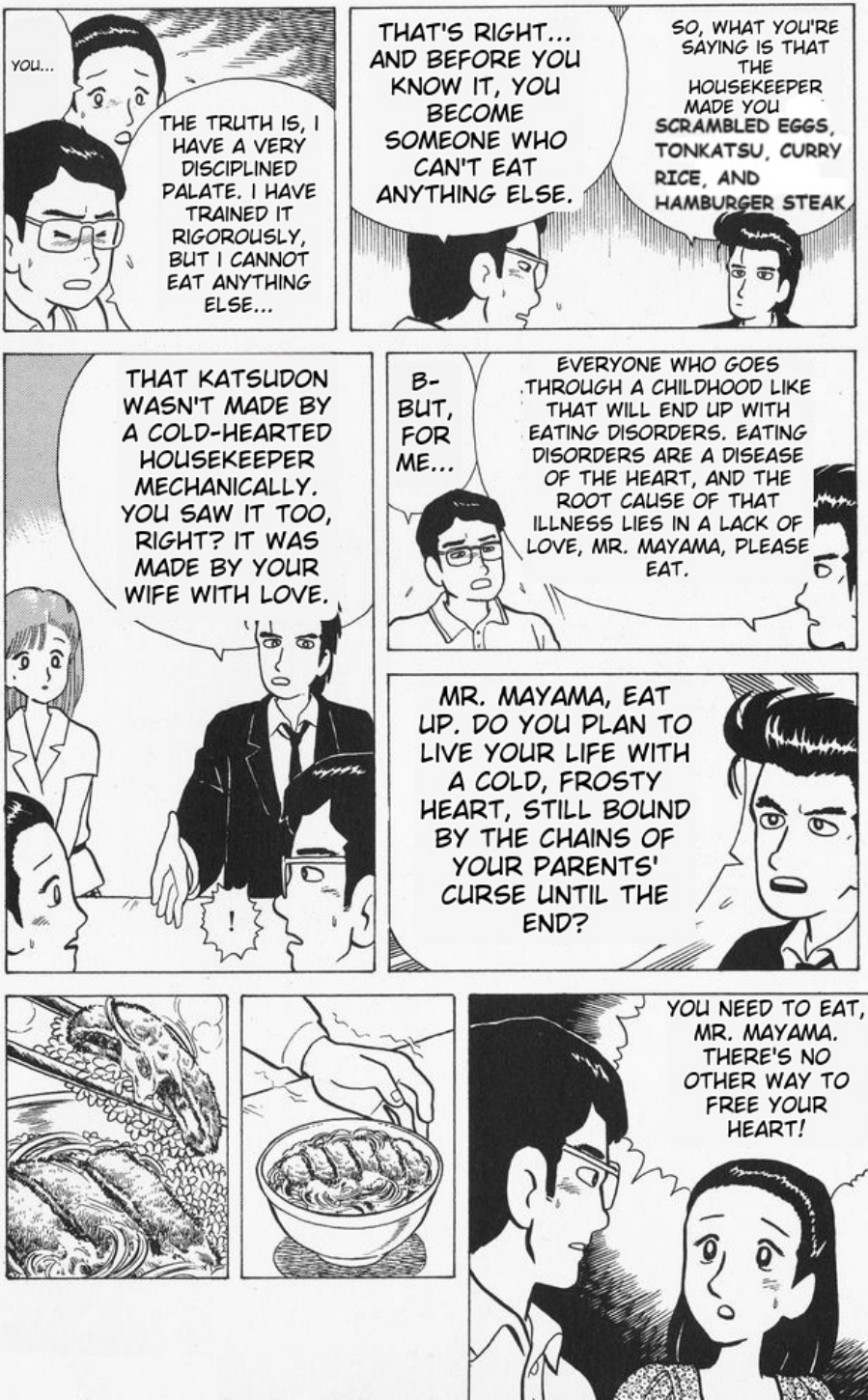

WHEN THE EGGS SOLIDIFY, POUR THEM OVER THE RICE IN THE BOWL.

AH...

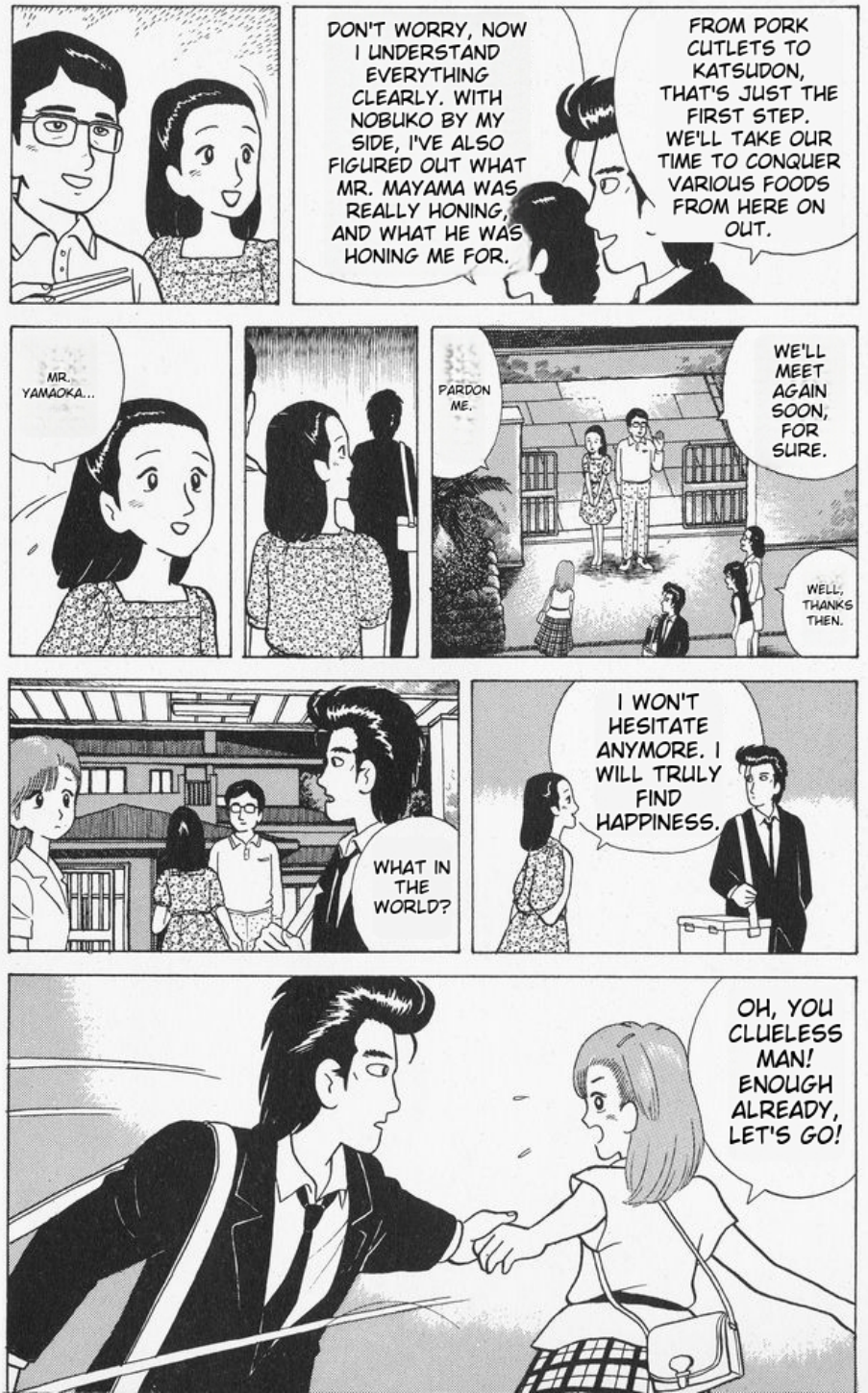

YOU HAVE TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER, THAT'S THE DEAL. THIS IS TONIGHT'S DINNER.
MR. MAYAMA, DON'T FORGET YOU LOST THAT BET TO ME.


A MAN WHO HAS IT ALL TOGETHER. A BUSINESS DEVIL AND A PHILANDERER, HARDLY EVER HOME, LEAVING MY MOTHER FED UP AND LOST IN RELIGION, RARELY AT HOME TOO. I WAS RAISED BY THE PRIVATE TUTOR AND THE HOUSEKEEPER UNDER MY FATHER'S ORDERS.
MY FATHER, WITH HIS AGGRESSIVE WAYS, SINGLE-HANDEDLY BUILT THE DAIBOSHI REAL ESTATE GROUP.

MY PRIVATE TUTOR, A COLD MAN WHO ONLY GIVES ME WHAT MY FATHER ORDERS - THIS MAN TRIES TO INSTILL SOME 'EMPEROR EDUCATION' IN ME. THE HOUSEKEEPER, A DEVOUT FOLLOWER JUST LIKE MY MOTHER, STUCK IN NARROW-MINDED BELIEFS, DEVOID OF ANY HUMANITY. I HAD TO EAT THE MECHANICALLY PREPARED MEALS ALONE EVERY DAY.


YOU...
THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE A VERY DISCIPLINED PALATE. I HAVE TRAINED IT RIGOROUSLY, BUT I CANNOT EAT ANYTHING ELSE...
THAT'S RIGHT... AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU BECOME SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EAT ANYTHING ELSE.
SO, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT THE HOUSEKEEPER MADE YOU SCRAMBLED EGGS, TONKATSU, CURRY RICE, AND HAMBURGER STEAK
THAT KATSUDON WASN'T MADE BY A COLD-HEARTED HOUSEKEEPER MECHANICALLY. YOU SAW IT TOO, RIGHT? IT WAS MADE BY YOUR WIFE WITH LOVE.
!
B-BUT, FOR ME...
EVERYONE WHO GOES THROUGH A CHILDHOOD LIKE THAT WILL END UP WITH EATING DISORDERS. EATING DISORDERS ARE A DISEASE OF THE HEART, AND THE ROOT CAUSE OF THAT ILLNESS LIES IN A LACK OF LOVE, MR. MAYAMA, PLEASE EAT.
MR. MAYAMA, EAT UP. DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH A COLD, FROSTY HEART, STILL BOUND BY THE CHAINS OF YOUR PARENTS' CURSE UNTIL THE END?
YOU NEED TO EAT, MR. MAYAMA. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO FREE YOUR HEART!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT IT!!!
IT'S OKAY TO PASS, DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO EAT WHAT YOU DON'T LIKE!
SO TASTY!!
REALLY?!
MMM... DELICIOUS...
WHO KNEW A SIMPLE PORK CUTLET BOWL COULD BE THIS REFINED WITH AUTHENTIC INGREDIENTS!
IS THIS REALLY A PORK CUTLET BOWL!? SUCH AN ELEGANT TASTE!
YES, FINALLY, TIME TO DIG IN!!
THIS IS AMAZING!!


DON'T WORRY, NOW I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING CLEARLY. WITH NOBUKO BY MY SIDE, I'VE ALSO FIGURED OUT WHAT MR. MAYAMA WAS REALLY HONING, AND WHAT HE WAS HONING ME FOR.
FROM PORK CUTLETS TO KATSUDON, THAT'S JUST THE FIRST STEP. WE'LL TAKE OUR TIME TO CONQUER VARIOUS FOODS FROM HERE ON OUT.
MR. YAMAOKA...
PARDON ME.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOON, FOR SURE.
WELL, THANKS THEN.
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
I WON'T HESITATE ANYMORE. I WILL TRULY FIND HAPPINESS.
OH, YOU CLUELESS MAN! ENOUGH ALREADY, LET'S GO!

第6話
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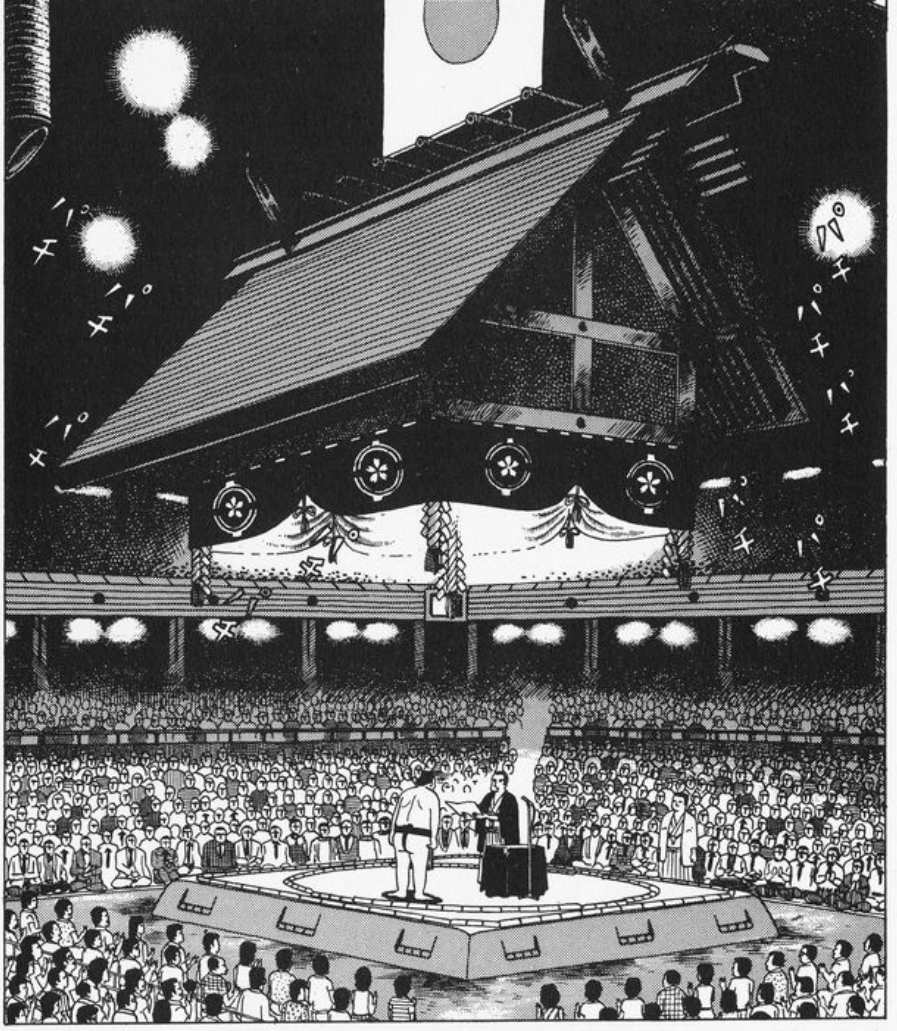
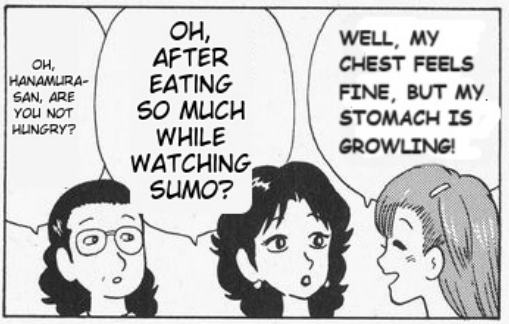


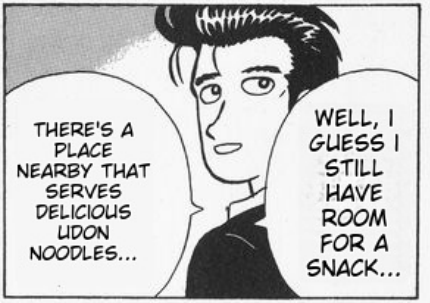
OUR FAVORITE SUMO WRESTLER, DAIKICHIHA, DEFEATED YOKOZUNA TOCHINOWAKA AND CLINCHED THE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A PERFECT RECORD, SO WE'RE OVER THE MOON WITH JOY.
OUR DIRECTOR, MR. TANIMURA, KINDLY GAVE US TICKETS FOR RINGSIDE SEATS, SO THE FOUR OF US WERE ABLE TO ENJOY THE GRAND FINALE OF THE SUMMER SUMO TOURNAMENT.

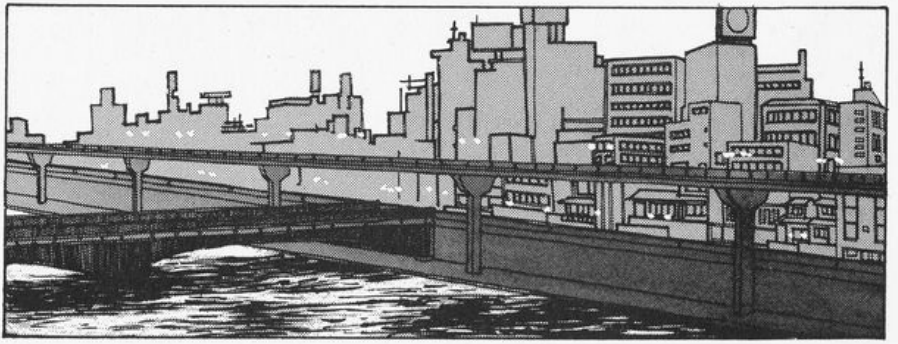

OH, HANAMURA-SAN, ARE YOU NOT HUNGRY?
OH, AFTER EATING SO MUCH WHILE WATCHING SUMO?
WELL, MY CHEST FEELS FINE, BUT MY STOMACH IS GROWLING!

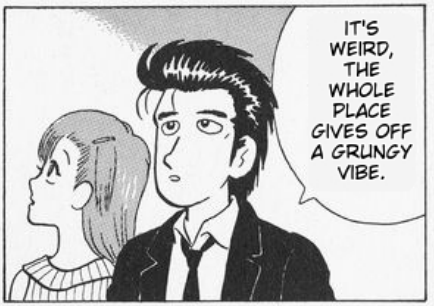
DAIKICHIHA'S WINNING MOVE WAS IMPRESSIVE, WASN'T IT?
HE LIFTED HIM UP ON THE LEFT, GRABBED THE RIGHT UPPER PART OF TOCHINOWAKA, AND QUICKLY PUSHED HIM OUT. A CLEAN CHEST MOVE!

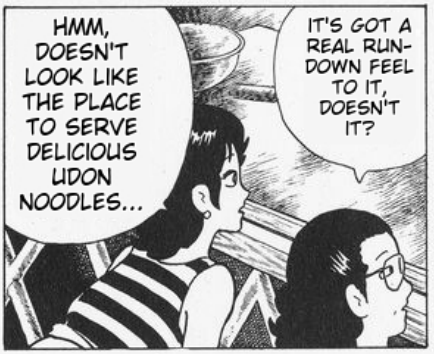
I'M HUNGRY!

SOUNDS GOOD!
WOW, I WANT TO EAT!


THERE'S A PLACE NEARBY THAT SERVES DELICIOUS UDON NOODLES...
WELL, I GUESS I STILL HAVE ROOM FOR A SNACK...




IT'S WEIRD, THE WHOLE PLACE GIVES OFF A GRUNGY VIBE.


IT'S GOT A REAL RUN-DOWN FEEL TO IT, DOESN'T IT?
HMM, DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE PLACE TO SERVE DELICIOUS UDON NOODLES...

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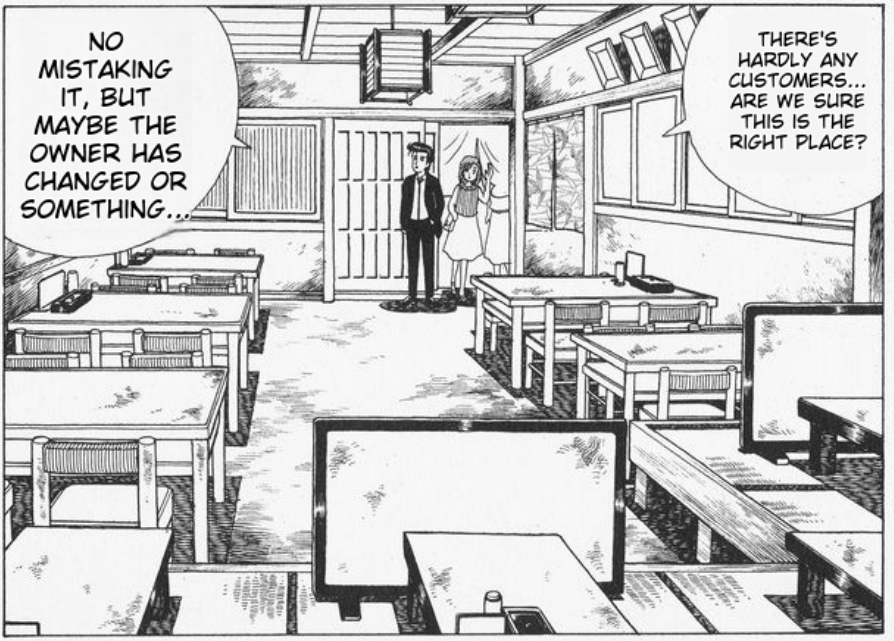
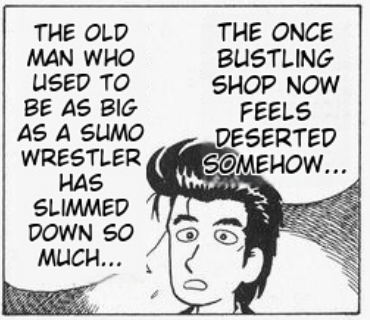
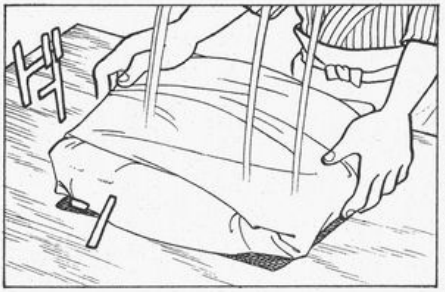

THERE'S HARDLY ANY CUSTOMERS... ARE WE SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE?
NO MISTAKING IT, BUT MAYBE THE OWNER HAS CHANGED OR SOMETHING...

OH, IF IT ISN'T MR. YAMAOKA! WELL, IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
WHAT'S UP, OLD MAN? YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT!

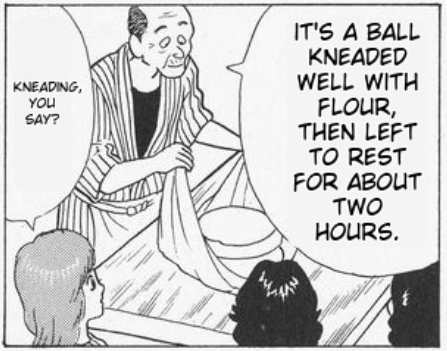
WELCOME...!

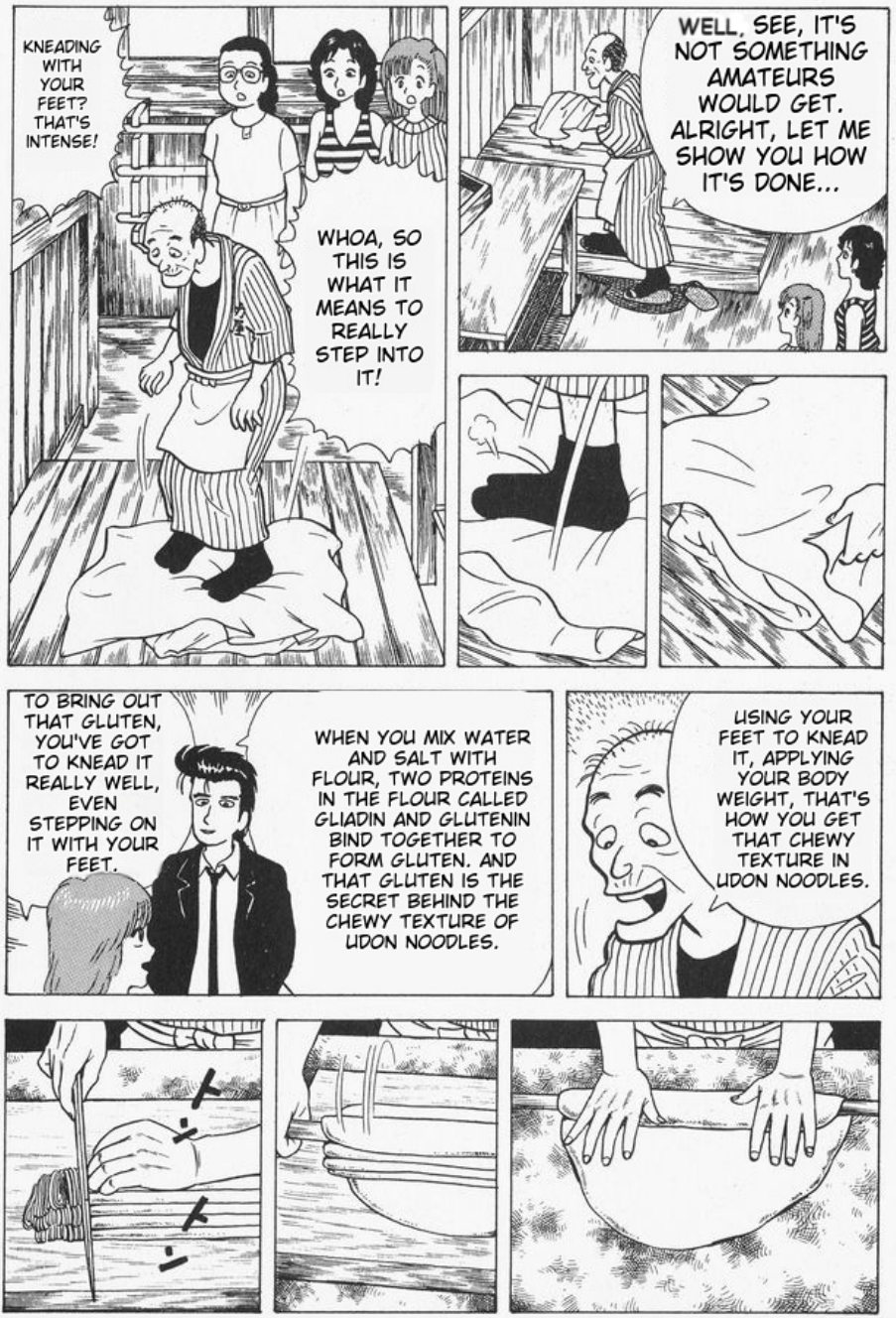
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN MAKING UDON?
LONG TIME NO TASTE OF DELICIOUS UDON!
HEHE... LIFE IS FULL OF SURPRISES. PLEASE TAKE A SEAT, I'LL MAKE IT FOR YOU.

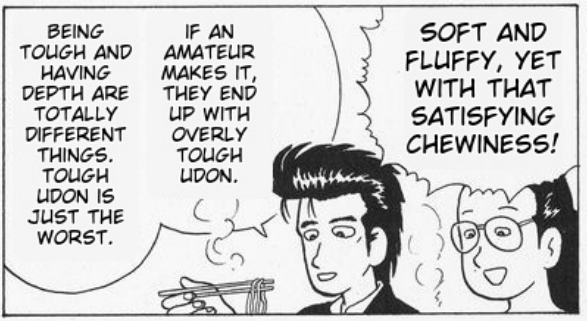

THE OLD MAN WHO USED TO BE AS BIG AS A SUMO WRESTLER HAS SLIMMED DOWN SO MUCH...
THE ONCE BUSTLING SHOP NOW FEELS DESERTED SOMEHOW...

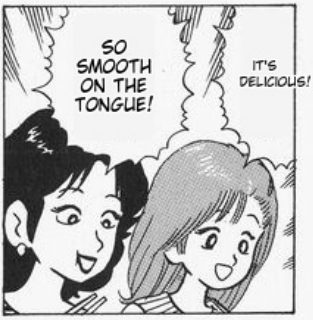


OH, YES, PLEASE!
SHALL I SHOW THE YOUNG LADIES HOW TO MAKE UDON NOODLES?
I'VE NEVER SEEN UDON BEING MADE BEFORE.


KNEADING, YOU SAY?
IT'S A BALL KNEADED WELL WITH FLOUR, THEN LEFT TO REST FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS.

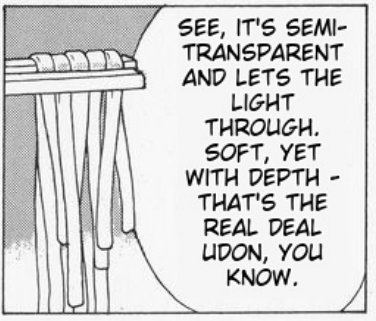

KNEADING WITH YOUR FEET? THAT'S INTENSE!
WHOA, SO THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO REALLY STEP INTO IT!
WELL, SEE, IT'S NOT SOMETHING AMATEURS WOULD GET. ALRIGHT, LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE...
TO BRING OUT THAT GLUTEN, YOU'VE GOT TO KNEAD IT REALLY WELL, EVEN STEPPING ON IT WITH YOUR FEET.
WHEN YOU MIX WATER AND SALT WITH FLOUR, TWO PROTEINS IN THE FLOUR CALLED GLIADIN AND GLUTENIN BIND TOGETHER TO FORM GLUTEN. AND THAT GLUTEN IS THE SECRET BEHIND THE CHEWY TEXTURE OF UDON NOODLES.
USING YOUR FEET TO KNEAD IT, APPLYING YOUR BODY WEIGHT, THAT'S HOW YOU GET THAT CHEWY TEXTURE IN UDON NOODLES.


BEING TOUGH AND HAVING DEPTH ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THINGS. TOUGH UDON IS JUST THE WORST.
IF AN AMATEUR MAKES IT, THEY END UP WITH OVERLY TOUGH UDON.
SOFT AND FLUFFY, YET WITH THAT SATISFYING CHEWINESS!


SO SMOOTH ON THE TONGUE!
IT'S DELICIOUS!

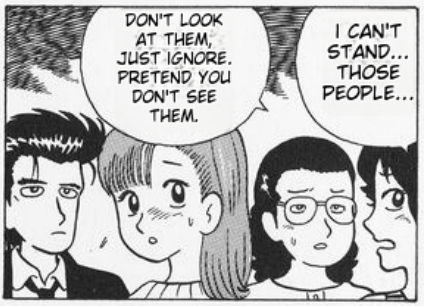
THE PLEASURE AS IT SLIDES DOWN YOUR THROAT IS SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE.
IT'S SIMPLE, YET THE FLAVOR IS SO RICH.

AN INDESCRIBABLE SENSATION.

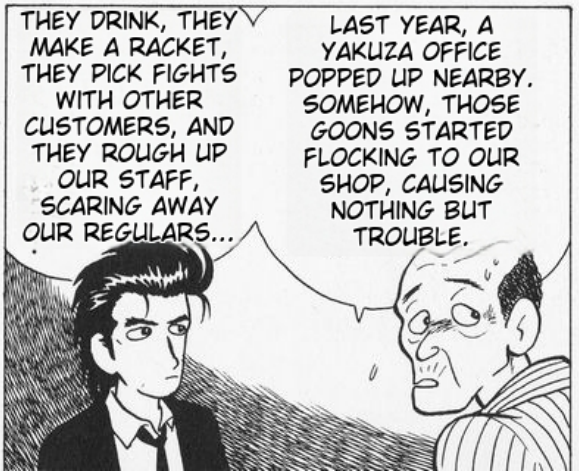

SEE, IT'S SEMI-TRANSPARENT AND LETS THE LIGHT THROUGH. SOFT, YET WITH DEPTH - THAT'S THE REAL DEAL UDON, YOU KNOW.

WELL, ACTUALLY...
T-THAT IS...

IT SEEMS THERE ARE NO STAFF AROUND, AND YOU LOOK SO THIN...
THE OLD MAN'S SKILLS HAVEN'T WANED A BIT. SO WHY IS THE SHOP SO DESERTED LIKE THIS?


I CAN'T STAND... THOSE PEOPLE...
DON'T LOOK AT THEM, JUST IGNORE. PRETEND YOU DON'T SEE THEM.

OLD MAN!! BOOZE, MORE BOOZE!!
HEY, BRING US SOME SNACKS TOO!!
HURRY UP, HURRY UP!!

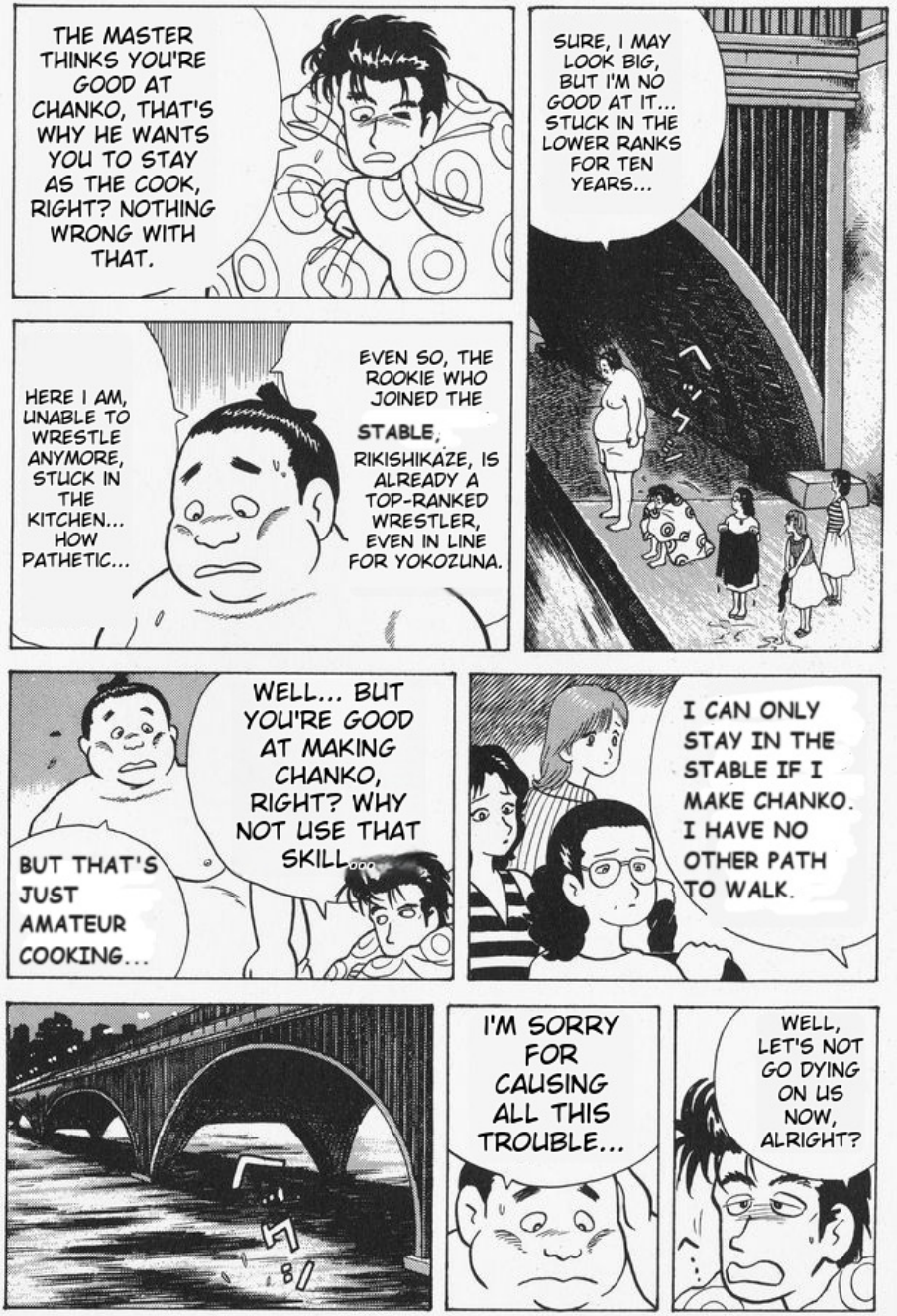

LAST YEAR, A YAKUZA OFFICE POPPED UP NEARBY. SOMEHOW, THOSE GOONS STARTED FLOCKING TO OUR SHOP, CAUSING NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
THEY DRINK, THEY MAKE A RACKET, THEY PICK FIGHTS WITH OTHER CUSTOMERS, AND THEY ROUGH UP OUR STAFF, SCARING AWAY OUR REGULARS...

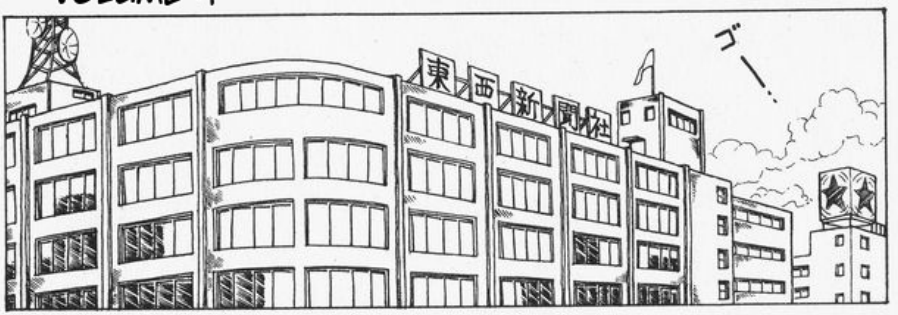
S-SORRY, MR. YAMAOKA...
THOSE GUYS ALWAYS SHOW UP LIKE CLOCKWORK...

HEY, COME OVER TO OUR TABLE, BABE.
SHE'S A CUTIE, AIN'T SHE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
そそそ
SHUT YOUR TRAP AND SCRAM, WILL YA!
HEH, MAKING A RUCKUS IS ALL PART OF THE FUN, AIN'T IT?
EEK!
LET'S BE FRIENDS, COME ON OVER HERE!
P-PLEASE STOP, YOU'RE BEING RUDE TO OUR CUSTOMERS.
HEY, CUT IT OUT ALREADY, WILL YA?
WHAT CAN A GUY LIKE THIS EVEN DO?
MR. YAMAOKA, MAKE HIM STOP!!

OH?
LET'S RUN, I'LL COVER THE UDON BILL!
AHH! OUCH, THAT HURTS!
MY EYES, MY EYES ARE BURNING!!
YAMAOKA, YOU REALLY STEPPED UP, I'M IMPRESSED.
OH, THAT WAS TERRIFYING.
DARN IT...
YAMAOKA, YOU TWO GO WAY BACK, RIGHT? CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING TO HELP...?
IT'S TOUGH... IT'D BE GREAT IF A COP COULD STAY HERE ALL THE TIME, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
BUT IF WE LEAVE IT LIKE THIS, THE SHOP WILL GO UNDER SOON. AREN'T THE POLICE GOING TO DO ANYTHING?

WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY DOING?
OH, IT'S A SUMO WRESTLER.
...
YIKES.
OH NO! HE'S GOING TO JUMP!
SU-SUICIDE!
YAMAOKA-SAN!
AHH!!
LET ME GO, I'M DONE FOR, I'M GONNA DIE!
STOP IT! STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS!!
LET ME GO!!
CALM DOWN...


THE MASTER THINKS YOU'RE GOOD AT CHANKO, THAT'S WHY HE WANTS YOU TO STAY AS THE COOK, RIGHT? NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
SURE, I MAY LOOK BIG, BUT I'M NO GOOD AT IT... STUCK IN THE LOWER RANKS FOR TEN YEARS...
HERE I AM, UNABLE TO WRESTLE ANYMORE, STUCK IN THE KITCHEN... HOW PATHETIC...
EVEN SO, THE ROOKIE WHO JOINED THE STABLE, RIKISHIKAZE, IS ALREADY A TOP-RANKED WRESTLER, EVEN IN LINE FOR YOKOZUNA.
WELL... BUT YOU'RE GOOD AT MAKING CHANKO, RIGHT? WHY NOT USE THAT SKILL...
BUT THAT'S JUST AMATEUR COOKING...
I CAN ONLY STAY IN THE STABLE IF I MAKE CHANKO. I HAVE NO OTHER PATH TO WALK.
I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING ALL THIS TROUBLE...
WELL, LET'S NOT GO DYING ON US NOW, ALRIGHT?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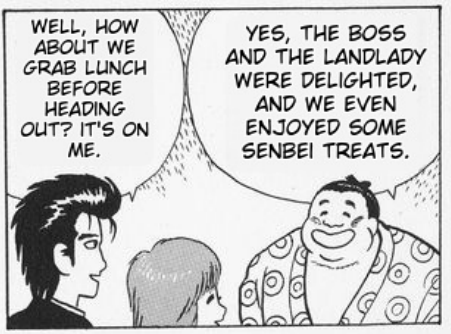
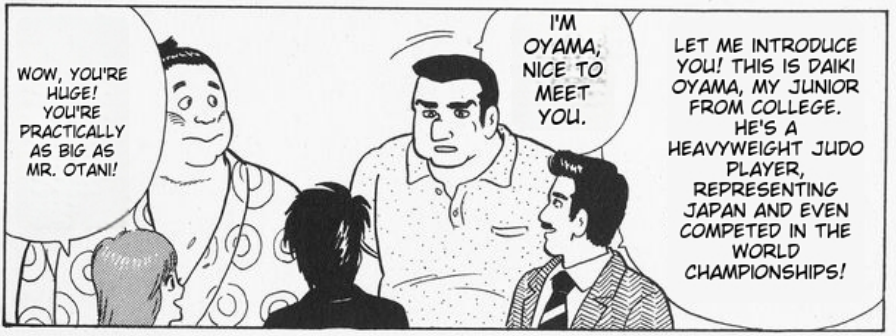
WE'RE DOING WELL...
OH, YAMAOKA, KURITA? HOW ARE YOU BOTH?
HEY, OTANI, WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH THE BOSS AND THE LANDLADY?

HOW ABOUT GRABBING LUNCH TOGETHER?

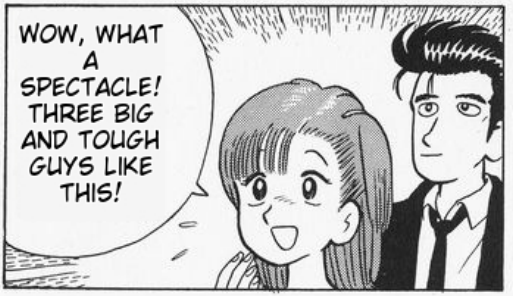

WELL, HOW ABOUT WE GRAB LUNCH BEFORE HEADING OUT? IT'S ON ME.
YES, THE BOSS AND THE LANDLADY WERE DELIGHTED, AND WE EVEN ENJOYED SOME SENBEI TREATS.

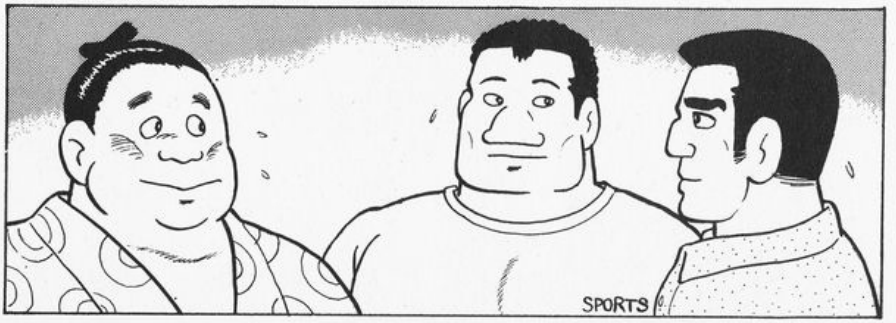
YAMAOKA, KURITA.


WOW, YOU'RE HUGE! YOU'RE PRACTICALLY AS BIG AS MR. OTANI!
I'M OYAMA, NICE TO MEET YOU.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU! THIS IS DAIKI OYAMA, MY JUNIOR FROM COLLEGE. HE'S A HEAVYWEIGHT JUDO PLAYER, REPRESENTING JAPAN AND EVEN COMPETED IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!

HEY, THIS IS THE PRO WRESTLER GINJI DAIBA YOU'VE SEEN ON TV, RIGHT?
I'M DAIBA, NICE TO MEET YOU.
HEY THERE, MR. MAEHARA, LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER!

HEY, HOW ABOUT LUNCH? JOIN US!
SPORTS


WOW, WHAT A SPECTACLE! THREE BIG AND TOUGH GUYS LIKE THIS!


SPORTS

HUH? IS DAIBA-SAN RETIRING?
BUT IF YOU RETIRE, YOU GOTTA WATCH YOUR WEIGHT, CAN'T BALLOON UP.
EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PATH TO FOLLOW.
YOU SURE HAVE A HEARTY APPETITE!
YES, I INJURED MY LOWER BACK... I CAN LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, BUT I CAN NO LONGER WRESTLE...
EVEN OYAMA-SAN!?
WOW, SURPRISING NEWS. TURNS OUT EVEN OYAMA IS RETIRING FROM JUDO DUE TO HIS BAD BACK.
HE ACTUALLY CAME TO ME TO DISCUSS HIS FUTURE PLANS...
IT'S A SHAME, I HAD THE POTENTIAL TO DOMINATE JAPAN'S PRO WRESTLING SCENE...
OH? YOU TOO?
ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS ME? I JUST RETIRED FROM SUMO WRESTLING.
MY CURRENT JOB IS BENEFICIAL FOR THE COMPANY'S PROMOTION AS I AM A JUDO ATHLETE... IF I QUIT JUDO, I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTINUE HERE.

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO WORK YOUR BUTT OFF, THERE'S A JOB OPENING.
SPARTS
.....
WHAT KIND OF JOB IS IT!?
I WON'T SPARE ANY EFFORT!
HEY, OLD MAN! GET US SOME DRINKS!
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HURRY UP AND BEHAVE YOURSELF!
IF YOU DON'T BRING ME SOME DELICIOUS FOOD, I'LL TURN THIS PLACE UPSIDE DOWN!
TCH, THIS PLACE HAS NO CHARM, NOT A SINGLE WOMAN IN SIGHT!

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE WANDERED INTO THE WRONG SHOP, HUH?
WELL, WELL, LOOK AT THE TROUBLE WE'VE GOT HERE.
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SHALL WE GIVE 'EM A GOOD SMACKDOWN!!
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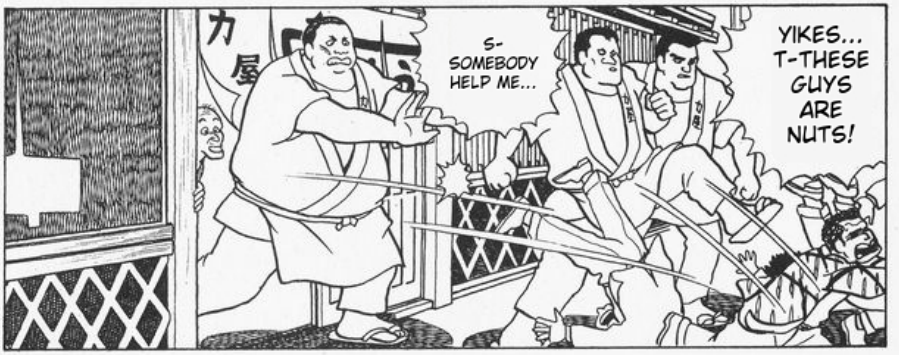
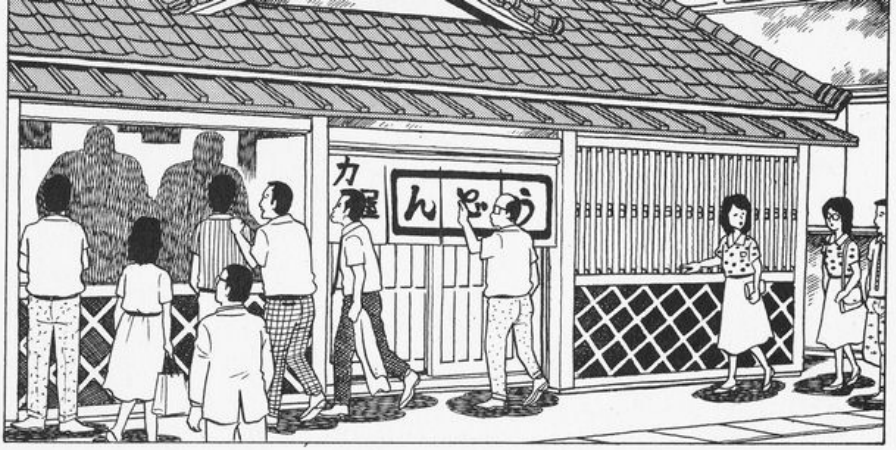
HEY! DO YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE?!
DON'T TAKE US LIGHTLY, YOU BUNCH OF JOKERS!

I-I CAN'T BREATHE...
GAH!!
EWW!!
EEEP!!


S-SOMEBODY HELP ME...
YIKES... T-THESE GUYS ARE NUTS!

DON'T YOU DARE SHOW YOUR FILTHY FACES HERE AGAIN!!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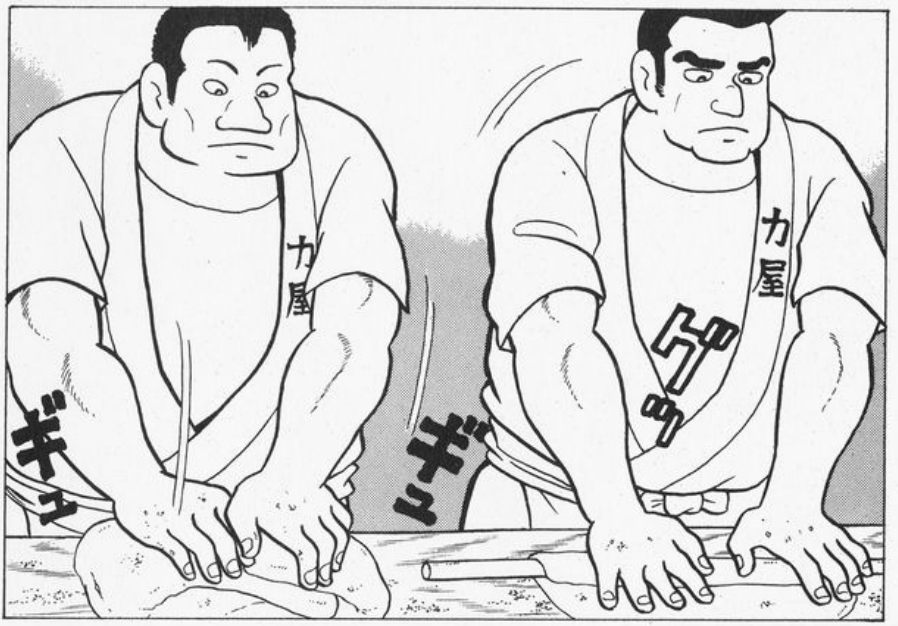
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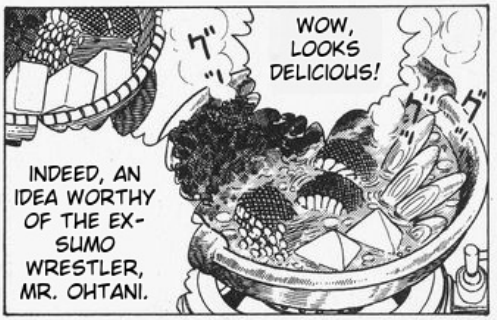
IF YOU KNEAD IT THAT THOROUGHLY, IT'S GONNA TASTE AMAZING, RIGHT?
WOW, THAT'S SOME SERIOUS STRENGTH!

WHAT AN UNBELIEVABLE TRANSFORMATION.
INCREDIBLE SUCCESS, HUH?


WOW, LOOKS DELICIOUS!
INDEED, AN IDEA WORTHY OF THE EX-SUMO WRESTLER, MR. OHTANI.

FIRST, THEY ENJOY CHAMPON, THEN THEY POUR OUR PRIDE AND JOY, THE UDON, INTO THE LEFTOVER BROTH AND HAVE A FEAST!
HERE YOU GO, OUR SPECIALTY, CHAMPON UDON!

OH, WELL, IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY.

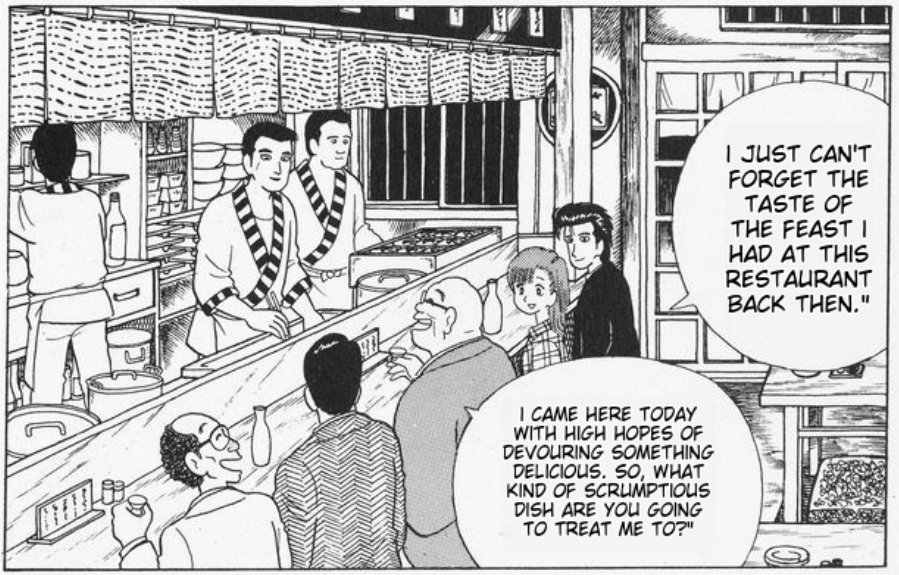
THOSE FOLKS, THEY DON'T NEED TO KNEAD THE UDON DOUGH WITH THEIR FEET!
HEHE! THANKS TO THOSE THREE COMING BY, THE THUGS HAVE STOPPED BOTHERING US, AND THE BIG GUY MAKING UDON HAS BECOME FAMOUS, LEADING TO A BOOMING BUSINESS! WE'RE BACK TO OUR FORMER GLORY IN NO TIME!

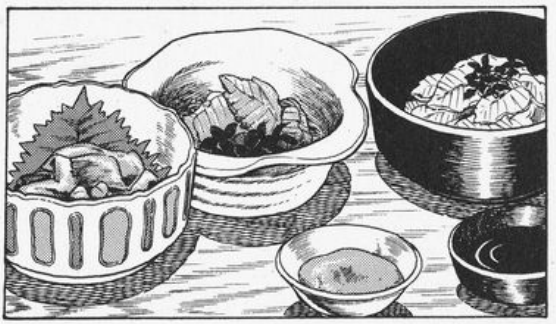
HOW ABOUT THAT, THIS CHAMPON UDON IS A HIT!
WHOA, POPS, YOU'VE PUT ON SOME WEIGHT.

BOSS, PLEASE FINISH IT OFF!
ALRIGHT!
THIS IS SOME SERIOUS STUFF. THE TASTE OF THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED TO A PATH WITH NO TURNING BACK. IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, SO PROGRESS IS SWIFT. YOU CAN EVEN STRETCH OUT THE LIKES OF OYAMA PARTWAY THROUGH.
ISN'T IT GREAT? GOT THE KNACK, HUH?
BEING STRONG CERTAINLY HELPS THE FLAVOR!
YOU NEED SOME MUSCLE TO MAKE DELICIOUS STUFF, TOO. THAT'S SOME FINE UDON YOU'VE MADE.
I'M ITCHING TO WHIP THOSE GUYS INTO SHAPE AND SHOW THEM THE ROPES AS TRUE STRONGMEN. SO, TAKE YOUR TIME AND ENJOY YOURSELVES, OKAY?
THANKS TO MR. YAMAOKA DIVING INTO THE RIVER, WE'RE HERE.

第7話
板前の条件

KYOGOKU MANTARO, THE MILLIONAIRE FROM KYOTO WHO LENT A MASTERPIECE BY RENOIR TO THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER COMPANY FOR THEIR 'IMPRESSIONIST ART EXHIBITION,' IS IN TOKYO AFTER A LONG TIME. WE DECIDED TO HAVE A MEAL TOGETHER."


I JUST CAN'T FORGET THE TASTE OF THE FEAST I HAD AT THIS RESTAURANT BACK THEN."
I CAME HERE TODAY WITH HIGH HOPES OF DEVOURING SOMETHING DELICIOUS. SO, WHAT KIND OF SCRUMPTIOUS DISH ARE YOU GOING TO TREAT ME TO?"



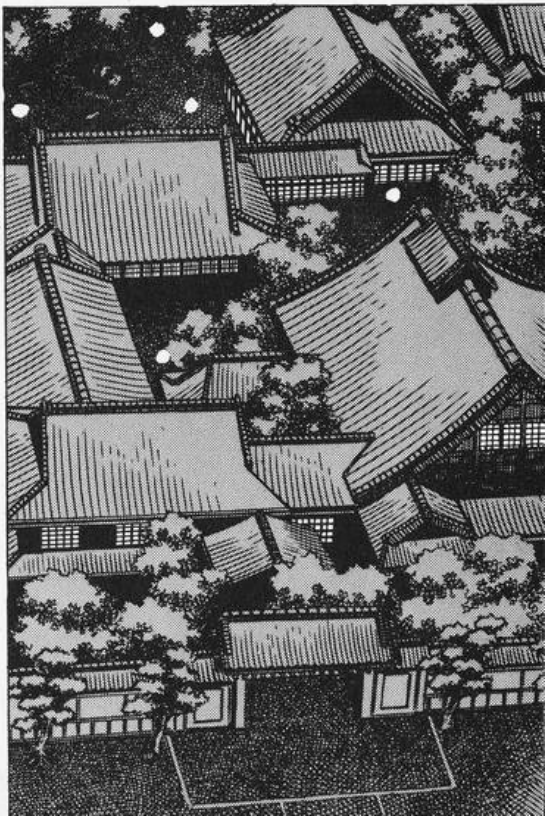
I HOPE IT MEETS YOUR EXPECTATIONS...

THE COLORS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, WITH A HINT OF CHERRY BLOSSOM PINK; THE TEXTURE IS SMOOTH, THE FLESH IS RICH AND ELASTIC...
THE CONGER EEL SASHIMI HAS A RICH AND MELLOW FLAVOR.
OH, SO HAVING THREE TYPES OF SASHIMI MEANS IT'S NOT JUST ORDINARY SASHIMI.
IN KYOTO, IT MIGHT BE THE SEASON FOR CONGER EEL, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO EEL, KYOTO CAN'T BEAT IT. SO, I HAD THE AYU FRESHLY CAUGHT FROM THE KATSURA RIVER SENT OVER AND TRIED USING IT.
THE AYU WITH PLUM PASTE IS DELICIOUS!
IT'S SASHIMI OF FLYING FISH FROM SAGAMI BAY, PLEASE ENJOY IT WITH MUSTARD VINEGAR MISO.
NOW, WHAT IS THE LAST ONE...?
THANK YOU.
THREE TYPES OF SASHIMI, BOTH THE SELECTION OF INGREDIENTS AND THE WAY OF EATING WERE EXTRAORDINARY; THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO PUT IT, IT WAS SPLENDID!
THE MUSTARD VINEGAR MISO SKILLFULLY ENVELOPED IT, TRANSFORMING IT INTO A RICHLY FLAVORED DISH BURSTING WITH CHARM!
HMM, THE DISTINCT FLAVOR OF FLYING FISH MIGHT BE TOO STRONG IF EATEN AS IS.

DO WE LOOK ALIKE? I'M HIS BROTHER, RYOZO. NICE TO MEET YOU.
HUH, HE REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE YOU.
T-THANK YOU.
I'LL START ON THE NEXT DISH... PREPARING THE FLYING DRAGON HEAD, WITH TOFU.
YES.
WELL... I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TRAIN ELSEWHERE, SO I GOT HIM INTO THE COOKING DEPARTMENT OF MASTER KAIBARA YUZAN'S GOURMET CLUB, BUT HE ENDED UP GETTING KICKED OUT.
WOW, IT MUST BE TOUGH HAVING YOUR BROTHER AS YOUR MENTOR.
SPEAKING AS HIS BROTHER
BROTHER, I DON'T THINK HIS SKILLS ARE BAD AT ALL. HE WAS EVEN CHOSEN AMONG OVER 50 APPLICANTS WHEN THE GOURMET CLUB WAS LOOKING FOR CHEFS...
KAIBARA YUZAN'S...!!
.....
IF YOU'RE NOT BAD AT COOKING, WHY DID THEY KICK YOU OUT?

美食倶楽部

ME, COOK DINNER FOR PROFESSOR KAIBARA?!
NO WAY!!!



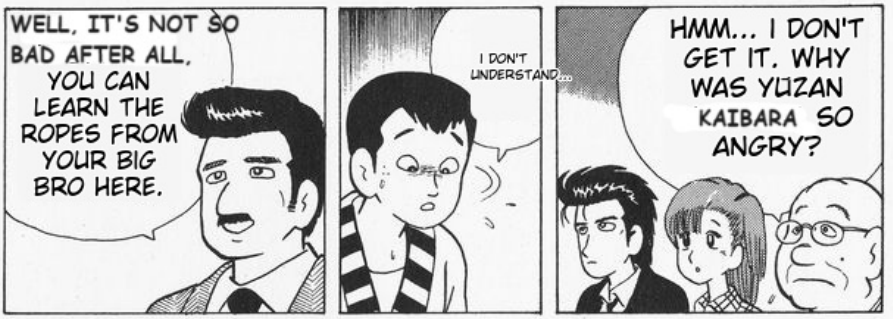
IF YOU IMPRESS THE TEACHER, YOUR STATUS IN THE KITCHEN WILL SOAR. BUT IF YOU MAKE HIM ANGRY...
Y-YES!
IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO BE GIVEN THAT ROLE, SO DO IT RIGHT.
THE FOOD FOR THE TEACHER IS PREPARED BY ROTATING CHEFS FROM THE GOURMET CLUB.
GOURMET CLUB HEAD CHEF, TOKUO NAKAGAWA (50 YEARS OLD).
IS THAT SO?
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING'S BEEN GOING WELL SO FAR: PROFESSOR KAIBARA IS ENJOYING THE MEALS.
N-NO WAY...
HEY, RYO, AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL CLIMB THE RANKS BY WINNING PROFESSOR KAIBARA'S FAVOR!
I HAD TO REDO THE SOUP SIX TIMES! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
ISN'T THAT AMAZING? IT'S HIS FIRST TIME, AND HE HASN'T SCOLDED HIM AT ALL!

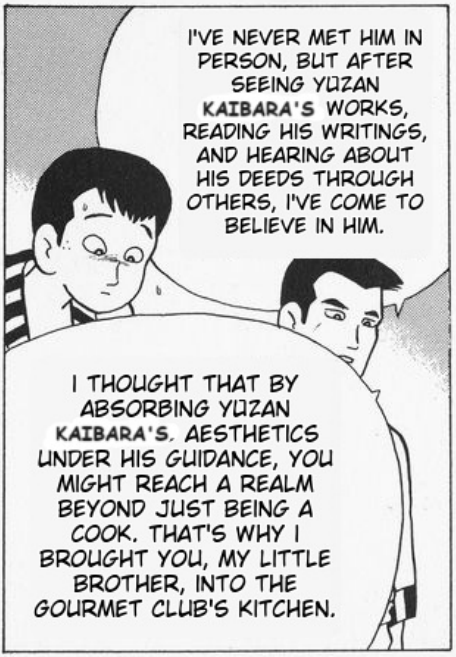
HAHA, IT WAS ALL GOOD WHEN I WAS COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN IT, BUT ONCE THINGS STARTED GOING WELL, I GOT TOO CONSCIOUS AND MESSED UP.
WHAT A NERVOUS WRECK.
.....
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING. YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE THE MAIN DISH NEXT, RIGHT?
UM, EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT...
THIS IS BAD. HE REALLY DID RUN AWAY.
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR MAKING FUN OF HIM! SOMEONE NEEDS TO TAKE HIS PLACE, QUICKLY!
WHAT'S GOING ON? HURRY UP AND BRING OUT THE NEXT DISH.
HEY, RYO, THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA BOLT. YOU OKAY?
IT'S NOTHING, I'M FINE.

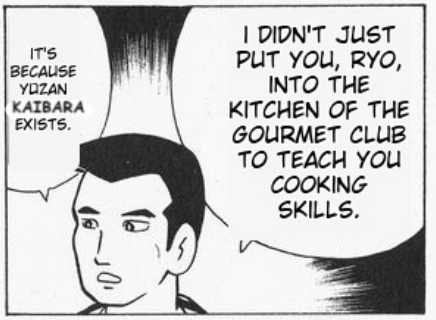
WOW, RYO HAS REALLY REGAINED HIS COMPOSURE...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON...
HEY, HOW'S RYO'S PROGRESS GOING?
WELL, I GOTTA SAY. THE PROFESSOR HASN'T HAD A SINGLE COMPLAINT ABOUT IT SO FAR.
WOW, NOT BAD AT ALL, HUH? TO BE THIS SKILLED AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
HERE.
OH NO, IT'S NOTHING REALLY...
OH REALLY... NICE JOB, RYO.

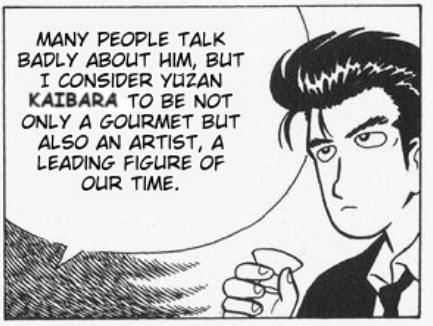
ドスドス
ドスドス
ドスドス
WHO'S THE CULPRIT BEHIND THIS MESS?!
美食倶楽部
美食倶楽部
美食倶楽部

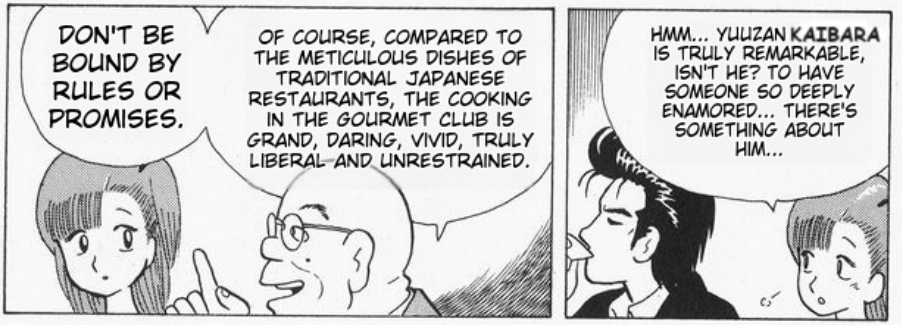
Y-YES... IT'S ME...
IT'S YOU!! YOU'RE FIRED, GET OUT!
HUH!? FIRED!?
WHY DID IT FLOP? THE INGREDIENTS WERE TOP-NOTCH, AND RYO'S COOKING TECHNIQUE WAS FLAWLESS!
MASTER, PLEASE, I'LL MAKE SURE RYO IMPROVES HIS FLAWS, PLEASE...
SHUT IT!! IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT SKILL; THIS GUY ISN'T FIT TO COOK AT ALL!
GET OUT!!
WHOA...
RIGHT NOW.
TEACHER...!
......
BON APPÉTIT.

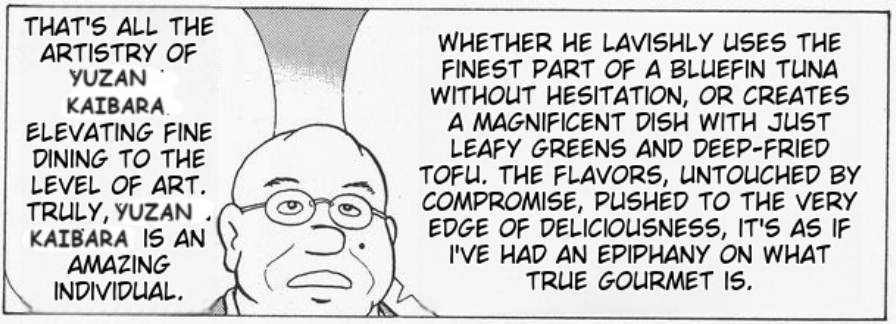

WELL, IT'S NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL. YOU CAN LEARN THE ROPES FROM YOUR BIG BRO HERE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
HMM... I DON'T GET IT. WHY WAS YŪZAN KAIBARA SO ANGRY?


I'VE NEVER MET HIM IN PERSON, BUT AFTER SEEING YŪZAN KAIBARA'S WORKS, READING HIS WRITINGS, AND HEARING ABOUT HIS DEEDS THROUGH OTHERS, I'VE COME TO BELIEVE IN HIM.
I THOUGHT THAT BY ABSORBING YŪZAN KAIBARA'S AESTHETICS UNDER HIS GUIDANCE, YOU MIGHT REACH A REALM BEYOND JUST BEING A COOK. THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU, MY LITTLE BROTHER, INTO THE GOURMET CLUB'S KITCHEN.

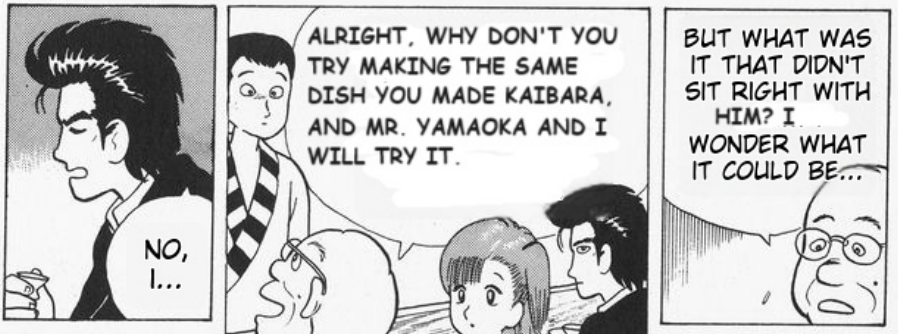

IT'S BECAUSE YŪZAN KAIBARA EXISTS.
I DIDN'T JUST PUT YOU, RYO, INTO THE KITCHEN OF THE GOURMET CLUB TO TEACH YOU COOKING SKILLS.


MANY PEOPLE TALK BADLY ABOUT HIM, BUT I CONSIDER YŪZAN KAIBARA TO BE NOT ONLY A GOURMET BUT ALSO AN ARTIST, A LEADING FIGURE OF OUR TIME.


DON'T BE BOUND BY RULES OR PROMISES.
OF COURSE, COMPARED TO THE METICULOUS DISHES OF TRADITIONAL JAPANESE RESTAURANTS, THE COOKING IN THE GOURMET CLUB IS GRAND, DARING, VIVID, TRULY LIBERAL AND UNRESTRAINED.
HMM... YUUZAN KAIBARA IS TRULY REMARKABLE, ISN'T HE? TO HAVE SOMEONE SO DEEPLY ENAMORED... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM...


THAT'S ALL THE ARTISTRY OF YUZAN KAIBARA ELEVATING FINE DINING TO THE LEVEL OF ART. TRULY, YUZAN KAIBARA IS AN AMAZING INDIVIDUAL.
WHETHER HE LAVISHLY USES THE FINEST PART OF A BLUEFIN TUNA WITHOUT HESITATION, OR CREATES A MAGNIFICENT DISH WITH JUST LEAFY GREENS AND DEEP-FRIED TOFU. THE FLAVORS, UNTOUCHED BY COMPROMISE, PUSHED TO THE VERY EDGE OF DELICIOUSNESS, IT'S AS IF I'VE HAD AN EPIPHANY ON WHAT TRUE GOURMET IS.

YES... IT WAS A SHORT PERIOD BUT THERE WAS MUCH TO LEARN. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO EMBARK ON SOMETHING SERIOUS...
DO YOU WISH TO RETURN TO THE GOURMET CLUB'S KITCHEN IF YOU SUCCEED?
.....


NO, I...
ALRIGHT, WHY DON'T YOU TRY MAKING THE SAME DISH YOU MADE KAIBARA, AND MR. YAMAOKA AND I WILL TRY IT.
BUT WHAT WAS IT THAT DIDN'T SIT RIGHT WITH HIM? I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE...

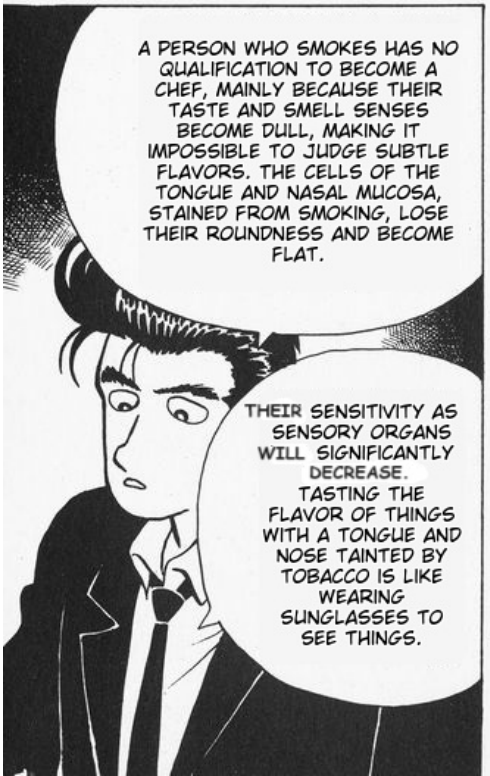
I'VE CAUGHT WIND OF SOME TENSION BETWEEN MR. YAMAOKA AND MR. KAIBARA
SO THEN, WHY DID MR. KAIBARA HAVE SUCH A BEEF WITH MR. RYOZO?
KYOGOKU, HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?!
WELL, YAMAOKA IS AFTER ALL, MR. KAIBARA'S SON.
NAY, IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO LET MR. YAMAOKA SEE IT.
HE'S MR. KAIBARA'S SON?!
W-WHAT WAS THAT!!
AH, THAT'S GRAND! LET'S SEE WHAT RYOZO CAN WHIP UP.
THERE'S SOME TOP-QUALITY SUZUKI IN THERE, RYOZO, GIVE IT A TRY.
SO, HOW BOUT IT?
ALRIGHT THEN.
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S JUST A BIG SOFTIE!
AH, DON'T YOU WORRY. YAMAOKA-KUN ISN'T NEARLY AS FEARSOME AS KAIBARA-SENSEI.
WOAH... SENSEI KAIBARA'S SON...

HE GOT NERVOUS AS SOON AS HE FOUND OUT YAMAOKA WAS KAIBARA'S SON...
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE FUSS? EVERYTHING'S RIGHT HERE, ISN'T IT?
O-OKAY... I JUST NEED A MINUTE TO PREPARE.
HE'S SUCH A HELPLESS GUY... SOMEONE KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
WHAT WERE YOU PREPARING FOR?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU NOT PLANNING ON COMING BACK?
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, LET'S BEGIN.
HEY, WHERE WERE YOU, RYO?
OH MY, NOW HE'S COMPLETELY CALM...

IT'S DELICIOUS, BUT... THE FLAVOR OF THE SEA BASS IS A BIT... OFF...
HMM...
YEAH, IT'S TASTY, ISN'T IT!
W-WHAT WAS THAT!!
HUH?!
W-WHY NOT? IT'S SO DELICIOUS!
U-UGH...
HOW ABOUT THAT?
UNFORTUNATELY, AS KAIBARA YUZAN SAYS, MAYBE YOU'RE JUST NOT CUT OUT TO BE A CHEF...
THAT'S WHAT WAS OFF ABOUT IT! I COULDN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT...
, IT MUST BE THE SMELL OF CIGARETTES.
IF YOU SMOKE, MAYBE BEING A CHEF ISN'T YOUR CALLING.
THIS BROTH SMELLS LIKE SMOKE. YOU SMOKE, HUH?

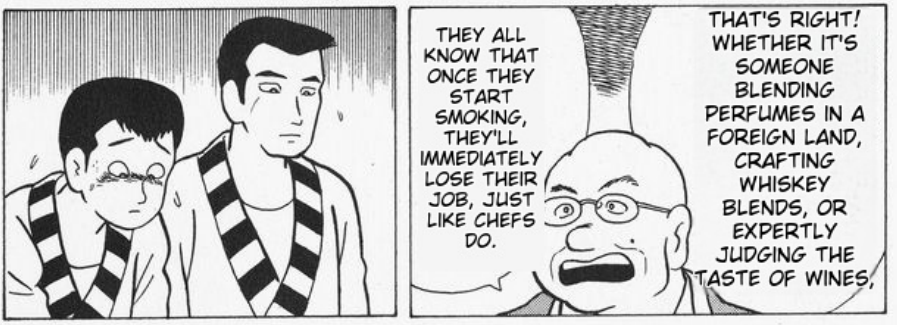
IT HELPS ME CALM DOWN...
WHY!?
I... I SMOKED...
RYOZO, YOU DIDN'T...?

SINCE THEN, WHENEVER I FEEL MENTALLY SHAKEN, I'VE DEVELOPED A HABIT OF TAKING A SMOKE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TRANQUILIZERS... JUST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH...
I WAS ONCE RECOMMENDED TO SMOKE BY A BAD FRIEND IN HIGH SCHOOL. IT LEFT A NASTY TASTE AND SMELL IN MY MOUTH, MADE ME DIZZY, AND SICK TO MY STOMACH, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I ODDLY NOTICED THAT IT MADE ME FEEL CALM.

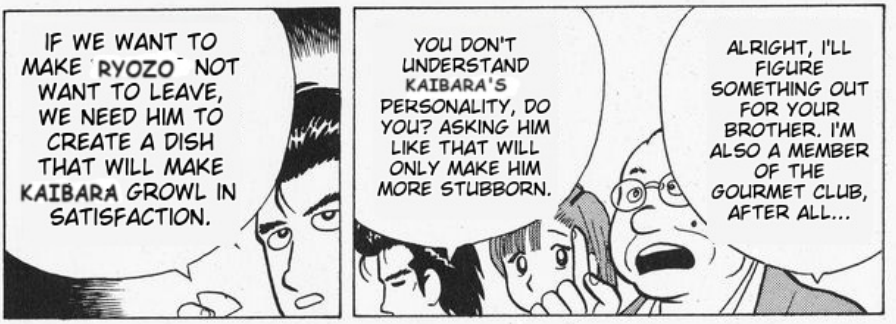

A PERSON WHO SMOKES HAS NO QUALIFICATION TO BECOME A CHEF, MAINLY BECAUSE THEIR TASTE AND SMELL SENSES BECOME DULL, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE SUBTLE FLAVORS. THE CELLS OF THE TONGUE AND NASAL MUCOSA, STAINED FROM SMOKING, LOSE THEIR ROUNDNESS AND BECOME FLAT.
THEIR SENSITIVITY AS SENSORY ORGANS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE. TASTING THE FLAVOR OF THINGS WITH A TONGUE AND NOSE TAINTED BY TOBACCO IS LIKE WEARING SUNGLASSES TO SEE THINGS.

THE SMELL OF NICOTINE LINGERS ON HANDS THAT HELD CIGARETTES, AND IT DOESN'T JUST WASH OFF WITH WATER.
I RINSED MY MOUTH AT THE BACK SINK, DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD NOTICE.

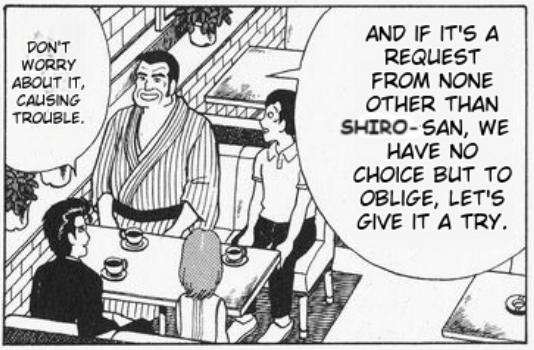
KAIBARA YUZAN
DIDN'T MISS SEEING THE NICOTINE ON HIS HANDS TRANSFER TO THE SUZUKI FISH.
I WENT OUT BACK AND HAD A SMOKE...
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS THE SAME BACK THEN TOO...

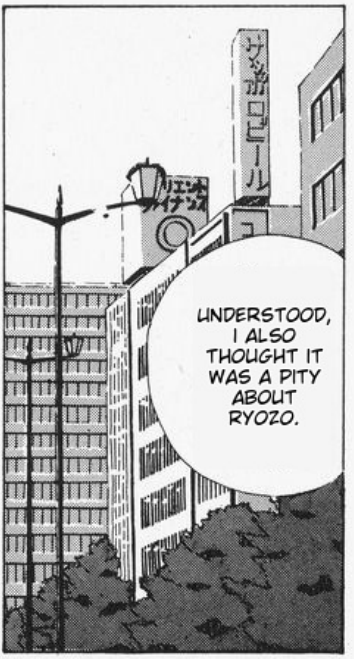

THEY ALL KNOW THAT ONCE THEY START SMOKING, THEY'LL IMMEDIATELY LOSE THEIR JOB, JUST LIKE CHEFS DO.
THAT'S RIGHT! WHETHER IT'S SOMEONE BLENDING PERFUMES IN A FOREIGN LAND, CRAFTING WHISKEY BLENDS, OR EXPERTLY JUDGING THE TASTE OF WINES,

I'M ASKING YOU TO THINK IF THERE'S ANY WAY FOR RYOZO TO RETURN TO THE KITCHEN OF THE GOURMET CLUB.
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO BEG KAIBARA FOR HELP.
YAMAOKA, DO YOU THINK RYOZO CAN RETURN TO WORK?
WHO KNOWS, THAT'S NOT MY CONCERN.

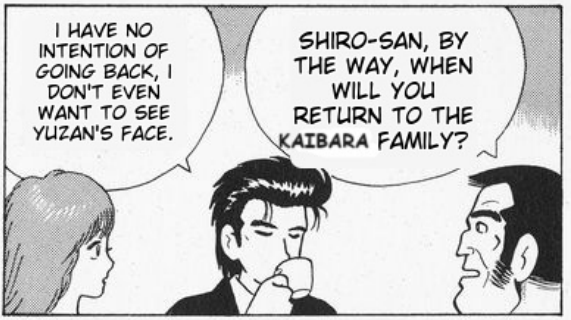

IF WE WANT TO MAKE RYOZO NOT WANT TO LEAVE, WE NEED HIM TO CREATE A DISH THAT WILL MAKE KAIBARA GROWL IN SATISFACTION.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND KAIBARA'S PERSONALITY, DO YOU? ASKING HIM LIKE THAT WILL ONLY MAKE HIM MORE STUBBORN.
ALRIGHT, I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT FOR YOUR BROTHER. I'M ALSO A MEMBER OF THE GOURMET CLUB, AFTER ALL...

YAMAOKA...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
BUT... WHAT KIND OF DISH COULD POSSIBLY IMPRESS MASTER KAIBARA?
I SEE, ONCE YOU FIND A SKILLED CHEF, YOU DON'T WANT TO LET THEM GO!

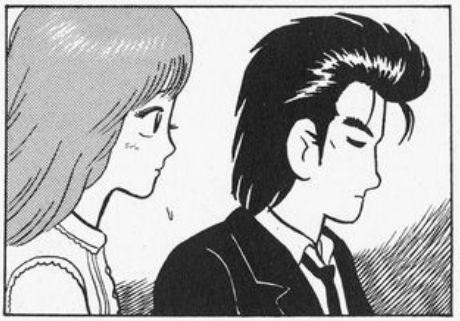

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, CAUSING TROUBLE.
AND IF IT'S A REQUEST FROM NONE OTHER THAN SHIRO-SAN, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OBLIGE, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.

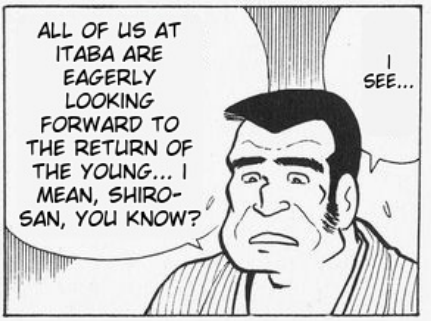

UNDERSTOOD, I ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS A PITY ABOUT RYOZO.

OH, IT'S ALL GOOD, MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE WE READY TO IMPRESS THE TEACHER WITH OUR COOKING SKILLS?
MANAGER, I'M SORRY.


I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING BACK, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE YUZAN'S FACE.
SHIRO-SAN, BY THE WAY, WHEN WILL YOU RETURN TO THE KAIBARA FAMILY?

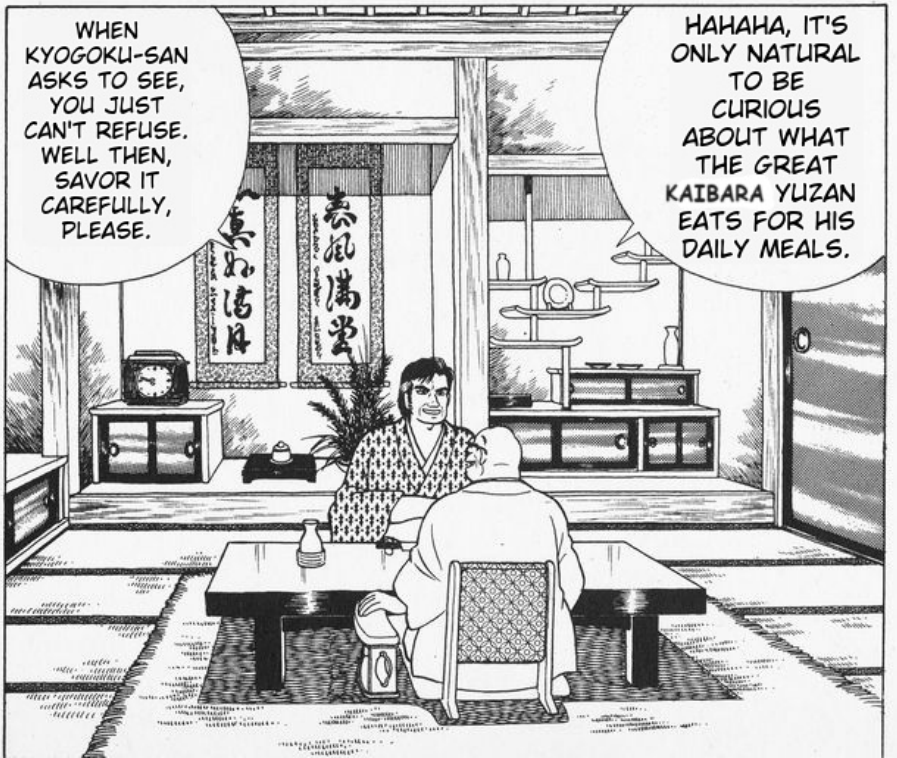
YES, I'LL DO IT AT ALL COSTS.




ALL OF US AT ITABA ARE EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF THE YOUNG... I MEAN, SHIRO-SAN, YOU KNOW?
I SEE...

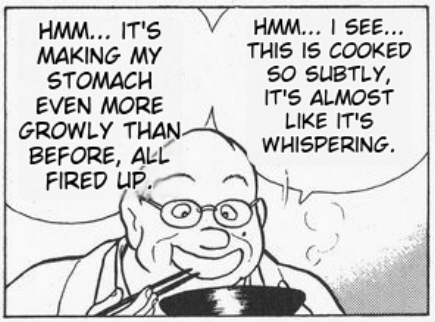
美食倶楽部

OH, NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE.


WHEN KYOGOKU-SAN ASKS TO SEE, YOU JUST CAN'T REFUSE. WELL THEN, SAVOR IT CAREFULLY, PLEASE.
HAHAHA, IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO BE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE GREAT KAIBARA YUZAN EATS FOR HIS DAILY MEALS.

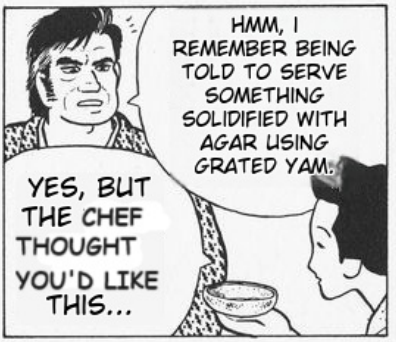
SUDDENLY SERVING SOFT-SHELLED TURTLE...
IT'S A DISH COOKED WITH SOFT-SHELLED TURTLE INNARDS IN GINGER SOY SAUCE.

WHAT'S THIS?


HMM... IT'S MAKING MY STOMACH EVEN MORE GROWLY THAN BEFORE, ALL FIRED UP.
HMM... I SEE... THIS IS COOKED SO SUBTLY, IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT'S WHISPERING.

WELL, AS YOU EAT, YOUR APPETITE JUST KEEPS ON GROWING, IT'S LIKE A NEVER-ENDING FEAST!
HAHAHA, EVEN A BIG SHOT LIKE YOU, KYOGOKU-SAN, GETTING CAUGHT UP ON FORMALITIES.

AH, THIS IS... WHAT ON EARTH...


HMM, I REMEMBER BEING TOLD TO SERVE SOMETHING SOLIDIFIED WITH AGAR USING GRATED YAM.
YES, BUT THE CHEF THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THIS...

HMM, THESE ARE INGREDIENTS FOR CHINESE CUISINE. USING THE SAME BEANS AS IN THE GLASS NOODLES BUT THINLY SLICED INTO A FILM-LIKE FORM HERE.

OFFERING SOMETHING TASTELESS AND ODORLESS, ONLY RELYING ON TEXTURE AND MOUTHFEEL, THE SAUCE USED IS THE KEY.

HMM, THIS IS...

HMM... THE WAY THE BROTH IS MADE IS FLAWLESS, THE SEASONING BLEND IS IMPECCABLE. DESPITE USING VINEGAR, THEY SKILLFULLY TEMPER ITS STRONG SCENT.

HMM... DELIBERATELY RESTRAINING THE AROMA THROUGHOUT...

NO, I MAY HAVE SAID THAT, BUT, AH, IT WAS TOO MUCH. SORRY FOR BEING THIS WAY.

WAIT... THERE'S A SUBTLE, A VERY SUBTLE HINT OF SOME FRAGRANCE HERE.

THIS FAINT FRAGRANCE, IT GIVES A FRESH AND RICH FLAVOR TO THIS BLAND AND ODORLESS THING... WHAT IS THIS SCENT?

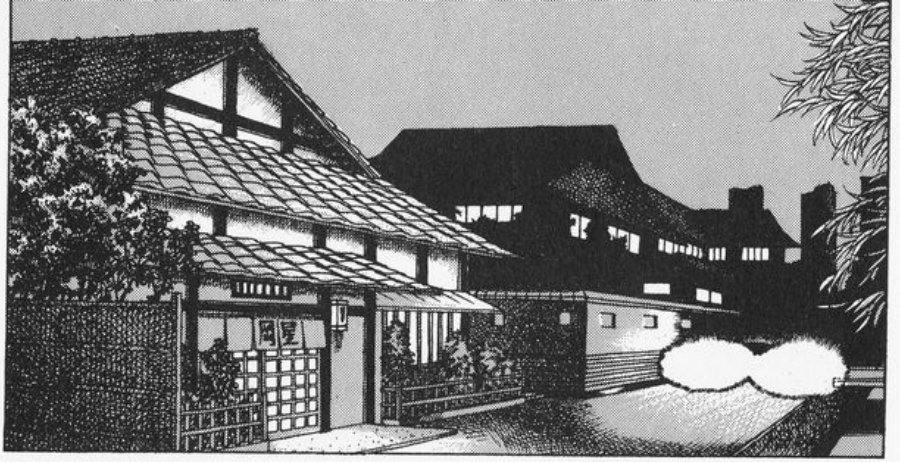
HE DARE CHALLENGE THE TASTE AND SMELL OF KAIBARA YUZAN LIKE THIS?!

KAIBARA-SAN...

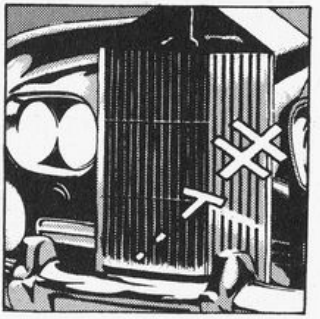
HEY, OISHINBO
VOLUME 4

N-NO, I WAS JUST...
YOU SCOUNDREL! HOW DARE YOU BE SO AUDACIOUS AS TO TEST MY PALATE?!
Y-YES, THAT WAS ME...
YES, EXACTLY.
IS THAT RIGHT?!
THE KEY LIES IN THIS AROMA, IN THE NUTS... I SOAKED NUTS IN ALCOHOL AND THEN ADDED THAT NUT-COLORED AND SCENTED ALCOHOL INTO THE BROTH!
EXACTLY! IT'S ALL ABOUT THE NUTS, NOT STRAWBERRIES, NOT RASPBERRIES, NOT CHERRIES... NOT EVEN BLUEBERRIES!
NO WONDER IT HAD SUCH AN INDESCRIBABLE AROMA.
SO THAT'S THE SECRET TO THIS FLAVOR?
YES, LAST YEAR, I SOAKED MULBERRIES IN ALCOHOL FOR A SIDE DISH, BUT THEN I USED THAT ALCOHOL AS A SEASONING IN MY COOKING.
MULBERRIES, RIGHT?

WOW, GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU FOR GETTING ME ALL RILED UP. WHIP UP THE NEXT DISH!!
HEHE... THIS KID'S GOT SOME NERVE TESTING ME.
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, BUT SERIOUSLY, THERE'S NO WAY A SMOKER LIKE CAN COOK UP SOMETHING LIKE THIS. LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT DISH.
MASTER, HE'S RYOZO, WHO GOT FIRED FOR SMOKING THE OTHER DAY, BUT...
HMM, I KNOW YOU...
MY LIFESPAN JUST GOT SHORTER...
Y-YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!



HMM...
RIGHT THIS WAY.



!

APPARENTLY, RYO'S OLDER BROTHER IS A CHEF TOO! LET'S CHECK OUT HIS SKILLS, SHALL WE?

HEH. WELL, I THOUGHT RYOZO HAD OVERDONE IT THIS TIME...
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...
SHIRO...
I'M HEADING BACK.
HUH? WHY...
HAHAHA, HAHA, HAHAHA!

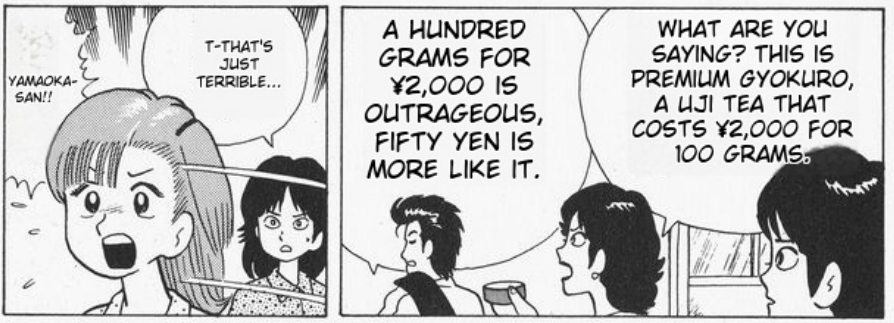
第8話

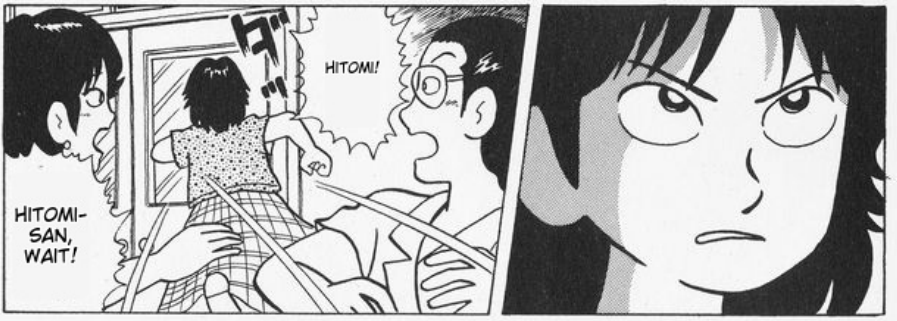
茶の味わい

AT LUNCHTIME, HITOMI, MS. TABATA'S NIECE, DROPPED BY FOR A VISIT. SHE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A SCHOOL TRIP THE DAY BEFORE AND CAME TO DELIVER A SOUVENIR TO TABATA-SAN.
TWO THOUSAND YEN FOR A HUNDRED GRAMS, YOU KNOW.
WOW, IT'S INCREDIBLE, IT'S A SPECIAL SELECTION GYOKURO TEA! HITOMI REALLY HIT THE JACKPOT!
OUR SOUVENIR WAS SWEETS, BUT MY OLD MAN CAUSED A BIG COMMOTION SAYING HE PREFERRED THIS TEA INSTEAD, MAKING IT QUITE A TASK TO PROTECT IT FOR MY AUNT.
AMAZING!
TWO THOUSAND YEN FOR A HUNDRED GRAMS!

WELL, GOTTA TRY IT AND SEE, RIGHT?
OH...!
WELL, IT'S GOT THIS VIBRANT GREEN COLOR, LOOKS DELICIOUS.
LOOK AT THIS, IT'S THE FINEST GYOKURO, YOU KNOW.
OH, HOLD ON, HOLD ON, MR. YAMAOKA.
DID YOU JUST CALL IT TRASHY TEA!?
HUH?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF TRASHY TEA THAT'S NOT WORTH A DIME?
DON'T JOKE AROUND.

HEY, 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4.





THERE'S A GUEST IN THE LOBBY ON THE FIRST FLOOR, MAN!
東西新聞社
YAMAOKA, WAKE UP! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN YOUR SIESTA MODE?
OH MY!
...THERE'S NOBODY HERE THOUGH...
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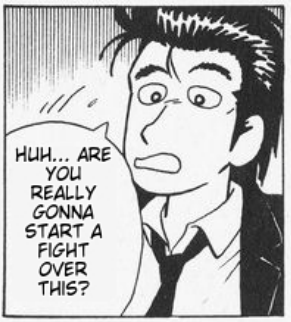
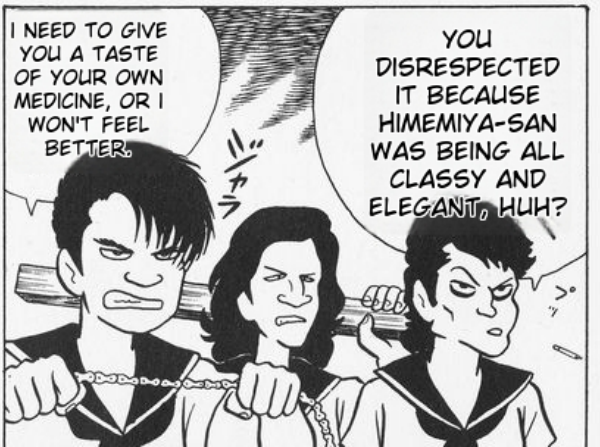
YOU'RE DISSING THE TEA I BOUGHT? HOW DARE YOU, MAN.
YOU SURE MADE A FOOL OUT OF ME EARLIER.
AND YOU...

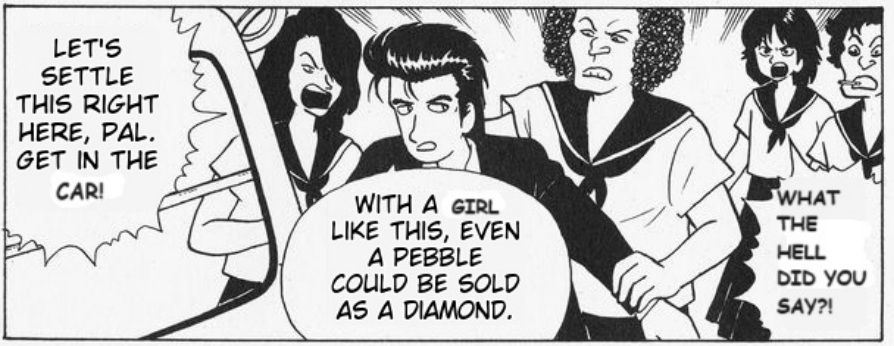

HUH... ARE YOU REALLY GONNA START A FIGHT OVER THIS?


I NEED TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE, OR I WON'T FEEL BETTER.
YOU DISRESPECTED IT BECAUSE HIMEMIYA-SAN WAS BEING ALL CLASSY AND ELEGANT, HUH?

YOU'RE ONE STUBBORN DUDE, HURRY UP AND GET IN QUIETLY!
WAIT A MINUTE.

LOAD UP THIS BAGGAGE QUICKLY.
HEY, HEY, WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
I'LL ROUGH HIM UP REAL GOOD WHERE NO ONE CAN SEE.

YOU'RE A CLUELESS CHICK, NOT REALIZING SHE'S BEING PLAYED BY THE SOUVENIR SHOP. WHAT A TOTAL AIRHEAD.
OH, I SEE NOW.


LET'S SETTLE THIS RIGHT HERE, PAL. GET IN THE CAR!
WITH A GIRL LIKE THIS, EVEN A PEBBLE COULD BE SOLD AS A DIAMOND.
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU SAY?!

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU TRY THIS TEA.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I'M BEING DECEIVED?
JUST HOLD ON.

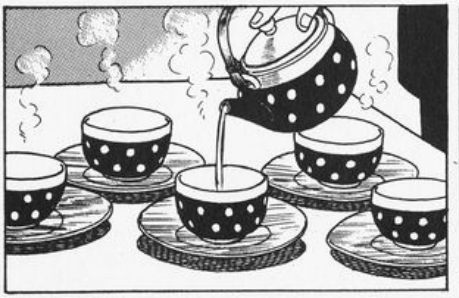
HITOMI'S A DELINQUINT?!

HITOMI!!

YAMAOKA, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT!?

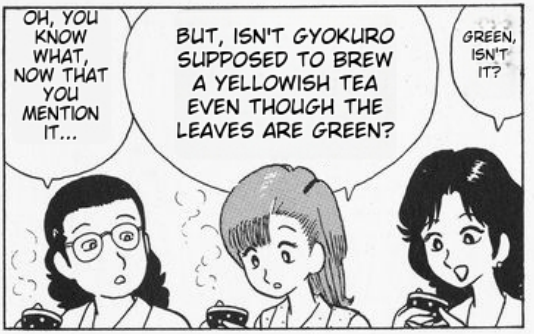
SURE, WHY NOT?

WE'LL BE BORROWING THE MEETING ROOM. WOULD THE DEPARTMENT HEAD CARE TO JOIN US? WE'LL SERVE SOME UNUSUAL TEA.
TABATA, COULD YOU BRING THE TEA FROM EARLIER?



IT'S SUCH A LOVELY COLOR, ISN'T IT?
IS THIS THE TEA THAT'S BEEN CAUSING A STIR?

WELL, LET'S GIVE IT A TASTE.


OH, YOU KNOW WHAT, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
BUT, ISN'T GYOKURO SUPPOSED TO BREW A YELLOWISH TEA EVEN THOUGH THE LEAVES ARE GREEN?
GREEN, ISN'T IT?

THE FLAVOR IS RICH, NOT A HINT OF ASTRINGENCY, KINDA LIKE GYOKURO, BUT WAY MORE INTENSE, RIGHT?
WHAT AN UNUSUAL TASTE...

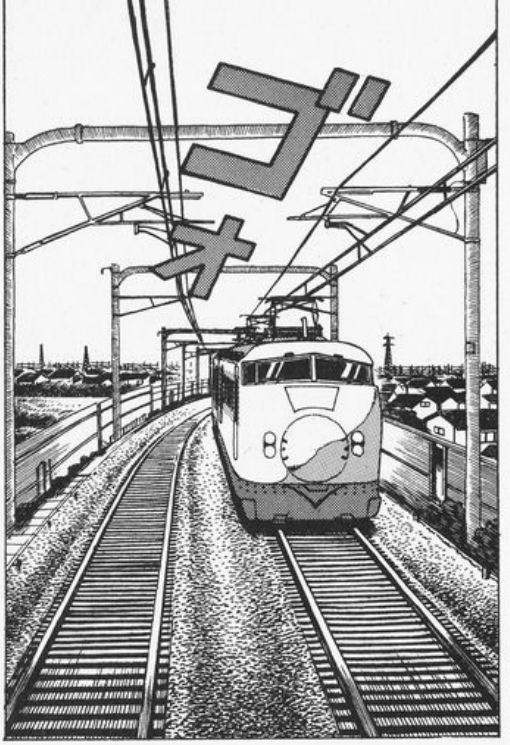
IS IT JUST ME OR IS SOMETHING OFF WITH MY NOSE?
THIS FRAGRANCE...

HEY, OISHINBO 4.

THIS IS TERRIBLE...
THE UMAMI OF CORN LIES IN THE SODIUM GLUTAMATE, DOESN'T IT NOW?
WELL, THAT'S WHY IT TASTES LIKE UNSALTED KELP TEA, YOU KNOW.
IT'S BEEN ARTIFICIALLY COLORED, YOU KNOW.
SO, WHAT'S THE DEAL?
AND ABOUT THIS COLOR, DOESN'T IT STRIKE YOU AS UNNATURAL? NO MATTER HOW HIGH-GRADE THE TEA LEAVES ARE, THEY SHOULDN'T PRODUCE SUCH A VIVID GREEN HUE IF IT'S NOT MATCHA. AND THIS GREEN IS JUST TOO VIBRANT, ALMOST HURTIN' THE EYES.
SPECIAL SELECTION GYOKURO? MORE LIKE A TOTAL SHAM! THEY'VE TAKEN CHEAP SENCHA LEAVES, DOUSED THEM IN ARTIFICIAL FLAVORINGS, AND TOPPED IT OFF WITH SYNTHETIC COLORING TO CREATE THIS PHONY IMITATION.
NO WONDER I COULDN'T SMELL ANYTHING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE TASTE AND COLOR ARE BOTH ARTIFICIAL, HUH?!
WOW, THERE ARE STILL SOUVENIR SHOPS OUT THERE DOING SUCH CHEESY THINGS TO ATTRACT SCHOOL TRIP STUDENTS, HUH?
THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH... THE STAFF AT THE SHOP SAID IT WAS THE FINEST MATCHA...

NAH, IT'S NOTHING, MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF WE HEAD TO KYOTO NOW, WE CAN BE BACK BY NIGHT.
HITOMI, WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO TO MR. YAMAOKA?
YET YOU WENT AND DISRESPECTED MR. YAMAOKA...
MR. YAMAOKA, I AM SO SORRY, I WAS DECEIVED LIKE A POTATO...
NO WAY!!! I'M GONNA MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS!!!
CAN YOU REALLY LEAVE THAT TEA-PUSHING SOUVENIR SHOP AS IT IS?
ROGER THAT!!
LET'S HURRY UP THEN.
H-HITOMI!!
COUNT ME IN TOO.
THIS IS NO JOKE, I HAVE TO GO TOO...

SO, IS THE TITLE OF 'SUKEBAN' PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS?
YES.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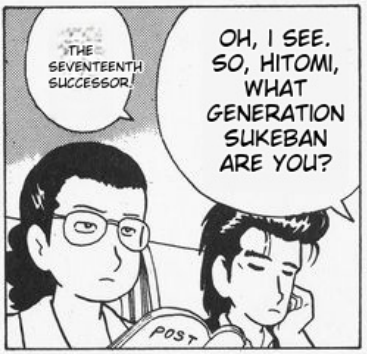
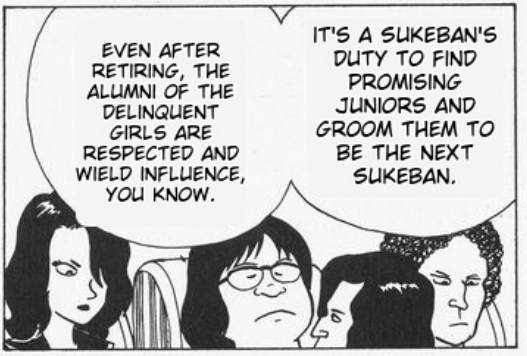
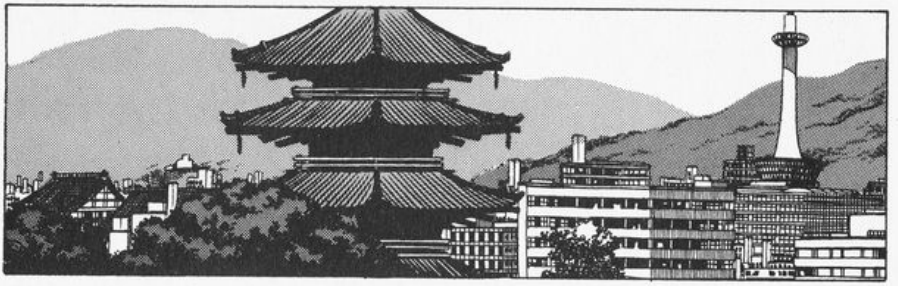

OH, I SEE. SO, HITOMI, WHAT GENERATION SUKEBAN ARE YOU?
THE SEVENTEENTH SUCCESSOR!
POST

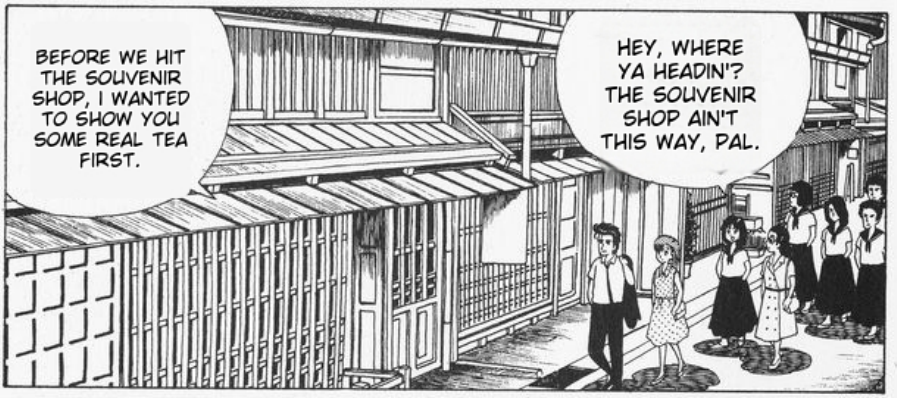

IT'S A SUKEBAN'S DUTY TO FIND PROMISING JUNIORS AND GROOM THEM TO BE THE NEXT SUKEBAN.
EVEN AFTER RETIRING, THE ALUMNI OF THE DELINQUENT GIRLS ARE RESPECTED AND WIELD INFLUENCE, YOU KNOW.

I WONDER WHAT THE FIRST SUKEBAN WAS LIKE...
WELL, YOU SEE...

QUIT WITH THOSE TALL TALES, IT'S SO EMBARRASSING, ISN'T IT?
POST

ABOUT LIKE THAT...




BEFORE WE HIT THE SOUVENIR SHOP, I WANTED TO SHOW YOU SOME REAL TEA FIRST.
HEY, WHERE YA HEADIN'? THE SOUVENIR SHOP AIN'T THIS WAY, PAL.

COME ON OVER, Y'ALL.
I WANNA SEE THE GOOD STUFF, SOME TOP-NOTCH GYOKURO...

清水
茶舗
茶舗
茶舗

THANK YA KINDLY, PLEASE, COME ON IN THIS WAY.

THIS IS OUR FINEST GYOKURO, SIR.
GYOKURO IS MADE BY CAREFULLY PLUCKING THE NEW SHOOTS OF TEA TREES GROWN UNDER SHADE, STEAMING THEM, AND THEN METICULOUSLY HAND-ROLLING THEM.
THE HIGH-QUALITY AND TENDER NEW SHOOTS MUST BE ROLLED METICULOUSLY TO ACHIEVE SUCH THINNESS.
WOW, IT'S AS THIN AS A NEEDLE.
ITS COLOR IS A DEEP GREEN, ALMOST BLACK, AND IT'S SO GLOSSY.
THEY ARE QUITE DIFFERENT INDEED.
THEY ARE WAY TOO THICK, TOO BRIGHT IN COLOR, AND COMPLETELY LACKING IN LUSTER.
THE TEA LEAVES I GOT TRICKED INTO BUYING ARE NO MATCH FOR THIS GYOKURO.
スポ…
OH MY, IS THIS GYOKURO DEFECTIVE?
THE TEA LEAVES ARE STICKING TOGETHER.
OH, WHAT'S THIS?
THE FAKE ONES ARE SO DRY AND FLAKY, RIGHT?
THE FEEL OF THE REAL ONE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, FIRM AND DENSE.

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THE ORIGINAL TEA LEAVES ARE SO TENDER AND HIGH-QUALITY THAT WHEN THEY ARE BEING KNEADED, THE LEAVES STICK TOGETHER AND FORM INTO THIS SHAPE. IT'S BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPERIOR QUALITY THAT THEY CLUMP UP LIKE THIS. INFERIOR LEAVES, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULDN'T COME TOGETHER LIKE THIS EVEN IF YOU WANTED THEM TO.
NO WAY! IT'S THE OPPOSITE. THE FACT THAT IT'S MIXED WITH OTHER TEAS IS PROOF THAT THIS GYOKURO IS OF EXCELLENT QUALITY.

PLEASE, GIVE IT A TRY! THE BOWL IS WARM, THE TEA IS JUST RIGHT, PERFECT FOR A SIP. TAKE YOUR TIME AND ENJOY.
SOUNDS WONDERFUL! THANK YOU!

WHICH ONE...
IT'S SO FLAVORFUL AND DELICIOUS, A DELIGHTFUL BLEND OF COMFORTING BITTERNESS AND RICH SWEETNESS SPREADING ALL AROUND...

CHEWING ON THE LEAVES IS THE SURE FIRE WAY TO JUDGE THE QUALITY, YOU KNOW. A TOP-NOTCH TEA LIKE THIS TASTES DELICIOUS EVEN WHEN YOU MUNCH ON THE LEAVES DIRECTLY.
NO WAY, FOR REAL?
ガリ

DON'T RUSH ONCE YOU POUR THE HOT WATER; PATIENTLY WAIT FOR THE TEA LEAVES TO FULLY UNFURL.

WHEN THE WATER IS TOO HOT, IT RUINS THE SMOOTH AND MELLOW FLAVOR.
IN THE CASE OF GYOKURO, THE WATER TEMPERATURE MUST BE NO HIGHER THAN 60 DEGREES CELSIUS.

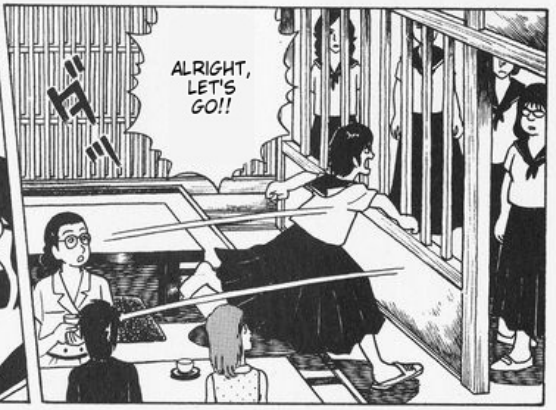
BY OPENING UP THE TEA LEAVES THIS MUCH, THE UMAMI FLAVOR COMES OUT FULLY.
WOW, THE LEAVES THAT WERE SHARP LIKE NEEDLES ARE NOW BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL FORM ON THE BRANCHES.
WELL, LET'S GIVE IT A TASTE.
IT'S THAT LAST DROP THAT'S THE TASTIEST.
WHEN POURING TEA, MAKE SURE TO SQUEEZE OUT EVERY LAST DROP.
THE REFRESHING AFTERTASTE SPREADS FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE THROAT TO THE NOSE ONCE YOU SWALLOW!
THE BITTERNESS IS GENTLE, YOU KNOW!
IT'S DELICIOUS, SWEET YET REFRESHING!
OH NO, YAMAOKA-SAN, THERE'S DUST FLOATING ON TOP OF THE TEA, NOT A GOOD LOOK.
?
I WANT PRAISE FOR MY BREWING TECHNIQUE TOO, NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE TEA IS, IT'S ALL OVER IF YOU MESS UP THE BREWING PROCESS, YOU KNOW...
OKAY, OKAY, I GOT IT.

HMM, SO THIS IS THE REAL DEAL, GYOKURO...
WOW, THOSE ARE SOME SERIOUSLY FINE HAIRS WHEN YOU REALLY LOOK AT THEM, FINER THAN A BABY'S SOFT FUZZ...

THAT AIN'T DUST, IT'S TEA LEAF FUZZ! ON THE SURFACE OF YOUNG TEA LEAVES, TINY HAIRS GROW. AS THE LEAVES MATURE, THESE HAIRS VANISH INTO THIN AIR.
HENCE, WITH CHEAP TEA, YOU WON'T SEE THESE FINE HAIRS ON THE SURFACE. THESE FUZZY THINGS THAT LOOK LIKE DUST ARE PROOF OF THE TEA'S TOP-NOTCH QUALITY.

THE AUDACITY OF BEING SOLD COUNTERFEIT TEA! I'LL GET THOSE BASTARDS!

HEY THERE!!


ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!!

THESE FOLKS ARE SUCH A PAIN, SERIOUSLY...

WAIT UP, HITOMI!
THEY'RE GOING TO CRASH THE SOUVENIR SHOP!!!

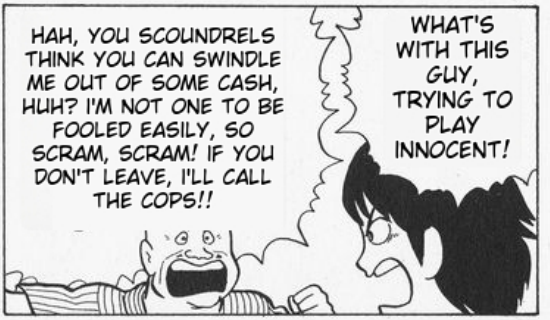
京みやげ
松黒屋
京土産
松黒屋
京みやげ

THEY CLAIMED IT WAS THE FINEST GYOKURO TEA, BUT THEY WERE ACTUALLY SELLING GARBAGE TEA FLAVORED WITH ARTIFICIAL SEASONINGS AND DYES!!
WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING? OUR TEA IS TOP-NOTCH UJI TEA. DON'T YOU DARE MAKE BASELESS ACCUSATIONS!

WHAT IN THE WORLD, THESE DELINQUENT GIRLS...

IF YOU TRY ANYTHING FOOLISH, YOU'LL REGRET IT!
HEY, HITOMI, CALM DOWN!

LET'S TAKE 'EM DOWN!!
YOU THERE!!


HAH, YOU SCOUNDRELS THINK YOU CAN SWINDLE ME OUT OF SOME CASH, HUH? I'M NOT ONE TO BE FOOLED EASILY, SO SCRAM, SCRAM! IF YOU DON'T LEAVE, I'LL CALL THE COPS!!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY, TRYING TO PLAY INNOCENT!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!! I SWEAR, I WON'T EVER SELL DODGY TEA AGAIN!!
I WILL MAKE AMENDS, PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
W-WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
HOLD ON A SEC.
MA'AM.
NO, NO, I WILL DEFINITELY KEEP MY PROMISE!!
ALRIGHT, I BEG FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS!!
IF I CATCH YOU SELLING FAKE TEA AGAIN...
IS THAT A PROMISE I CAN TRUST? I'LL BE CHECKING IN FROM TIME TO TIME.
SHALL WE GO NOW? WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED OUR GOAL...

TABATA-SAN, WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THAT GUY?
TELL ME.
IF HE'S SELLING FAKE JADE DEW TO TOURISTS, HE MUST BE MAKING A PRETTY PENNY, DON'T YOU THINK?
THOSE TYPES OF GUYS ARE LIKELY TO HIDE THEIR PROFITS AND EVADE TAXES NEXT, SO WHEN I SET A TRAP, IT WAS SPOT ON.
HEY OLD MAN, WHERE ARE YOU STASHING ALL THAT DIRTY MONEY YOU'VE BEEN RAKING IN? HOW ABOUT I BRING SOME FOLKS FROM THE TAX OFFICE OVER FOR A LITTLE VISIT, HUH?
SO, WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HITOMI, DON'T SAY THAT...
AS EXPECTED OF THE ORIGINAL DELINQUENT SCHOOLGIRL, YOU'RE AMAZING!!
OH SNAP! TABATA-SAN WAS THE ORIGINAL DELINQUENT SCHOOLGIRL!!
NOT BAD, FOR AN OLD DELINQUINT, EH, HITOMI?

第0話

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TODAY, I CAME TO THE SUMIDA JIZO ENNICHI IN ASAKUSA WITH TABATA-SAN FROM WORK AND HER NIECE, HITOMI-SAN. BESIDES THE FESTIVAL, TABATA-SAN MENTIONED SHE'LL INTRODUCE HER AUNT. I WONDER WHAT KIND OF AUNT SHE IS.

DESPITE THAT, YOU'VE GOT SKILLS, MISS YUKO!. YOU SCOOPED UP SO MANY GOLDFISH THAT THE STALL OWNERS MISTOOK YOU FOR ONE OF THEM.
THIS IS SO MUCH FUN! I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN SINCE I LAST ATTENDED A FESTIVAL.

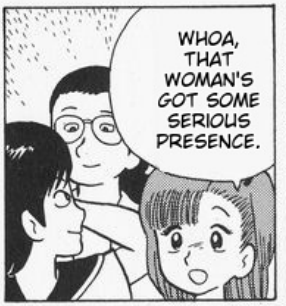
THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY, SHOW SOME RESTRAINT!
HEHE, AUNT KEIKO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT ALL COOL. YOUR PAST AS A DELINQUENT GIRL IS ALREADY OUT IN THE OPEN, YOU KNOW.

HITOMI, USE MORE REFINED LANGUAGE, PLEASE!

YOU BETTER BUY SOME!
HAHA, YOU BROUGHT A GIRL, EH? COME ON, HAVE SOME TAKOYAKI!
COME ON, COME ON, THE AUTHENTIC OSAKA TAKOYAKI! IT'S SO GOOD, IT'S SO GOOD!
HEY, BACK OFF, LET GO OF ME.
HOLD UP!
WHAT'S THIS, TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH US, HUH!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, WE'RE JUST BEING KIND AND LETTING YOU WIN, AREN'T WE!
LEADER OF THE RIVAL GANG, FUMI MIZUNO (AGE 45)
FLOWER

HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS PLACE IS, HUH? DON'T GO DISRESPECTING OUR CUSTOMERS WHO CAME HERE TO ENJOY THE FESTIVAL!
FIREWORKS B29
MIZUNO?
UGH...

THIS TICKET LETS YOU PLAY GAMES LIKE GOLDFISH SCOOPING AND TARGET SHOOTING, SO HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOURSELF, OKAY?
.....


WHOA, THAT WOMAN'S GOT SOME SERIOUS PRESENCE.

UH... UH...

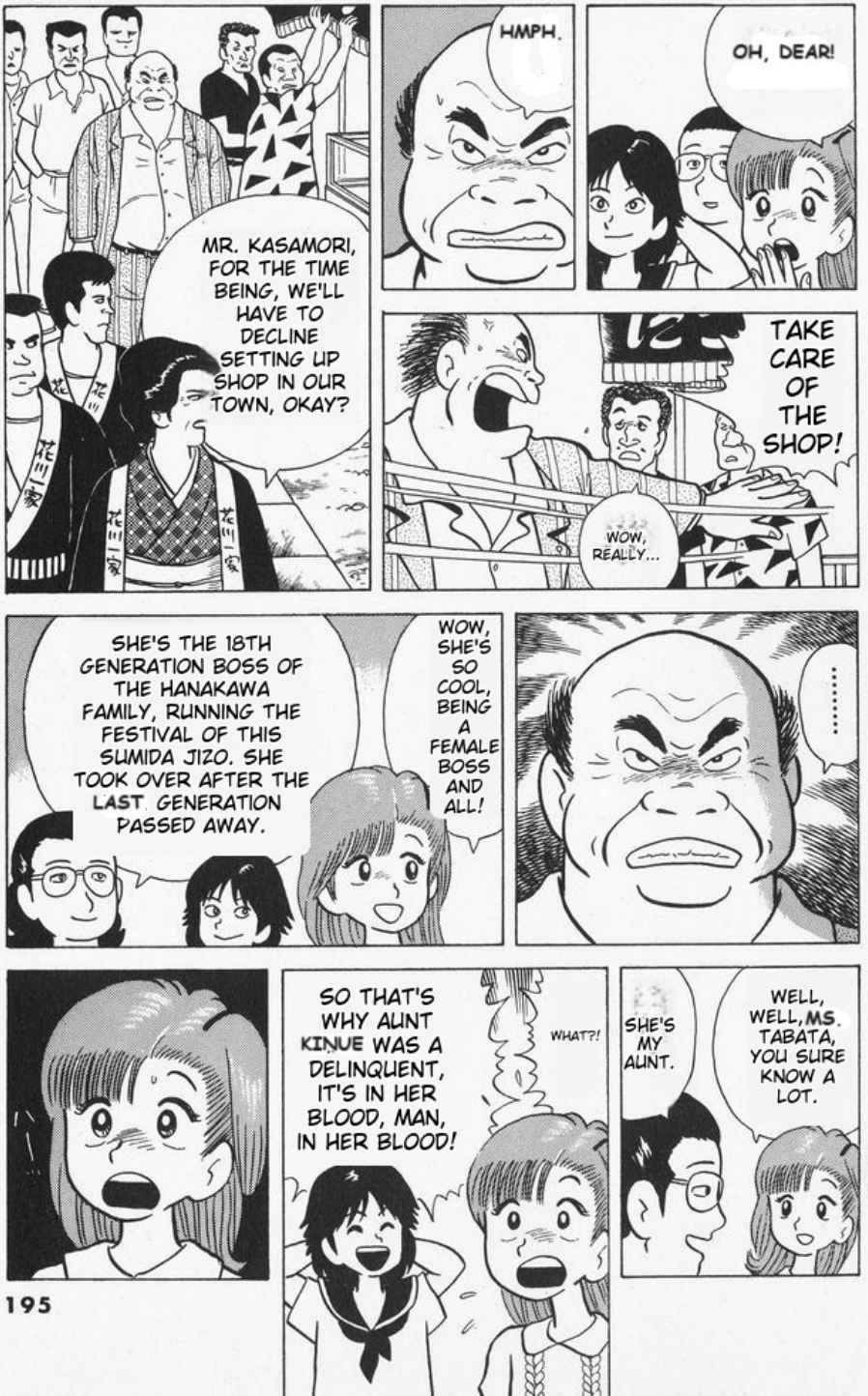
OH NO, IT'S NOTHING REALLY...
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE UPSET BY ALL THIS.

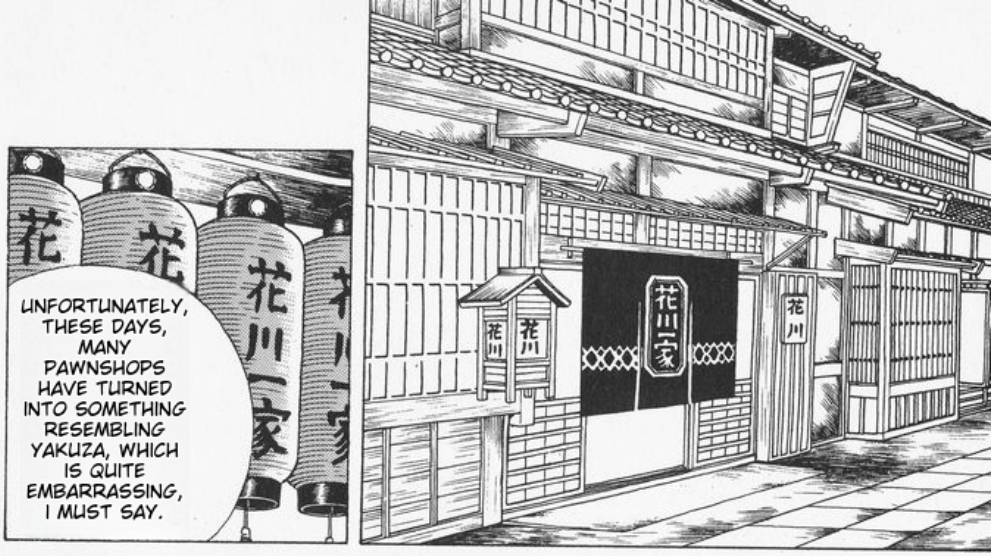
UGH...
AH, UH...

HURRY UP AND CLOSE THE SHOP AND GET OUT OF HERE!
I CAN'T LET SOMEONE WHO'S RUDE TO OUR CUSTOMERS OFF THE HOOK LIKE THAT!

CLOSE UP SHOP.
HUH?

※たかまち＝祭りや縁日で、人が集まるところ。


MR. KASAMORI, FOR THE TIME BEING, WE'LL HAVE TO DECLINE SETTING UP SHOP IN OUR TOWN, OKAY?
HMPH.
OH, DEAR!
TAKE CARE OF THE SHOP!
WOW, REALLY...
SHE'S THE 18TH GENERATION BOSS OF THE HANAKAWA FAMILY, RUNNING THE FESTIVAL OF THIS SUMIDA JIZO. SHE TOOK OVER AFTER THE LAST GENERATION PASSED AWAY.
WOW, SHE'S SO COOL, BEING A FEMALE BOSS AND ALL!
.....
SO THAT'S WHY AUNT KINUE WAS A DELINQUENT, IT'S IN HER BLOOD, MAN, IN HER BLOOD!
WHAT?!
SHE'S MY AUNT.
WELL, WELL, MS. TABATA, YOU SURE KNOW A LOT.



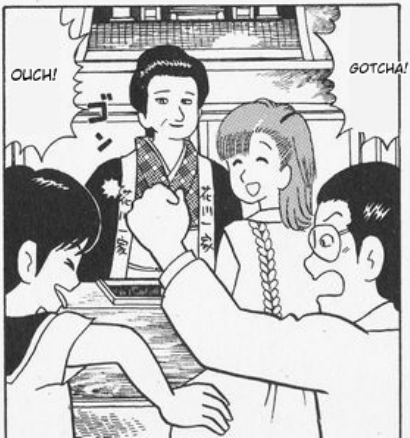
UNFORTUNATELY, THESE DAYS, MANY PAWNSHOPS HAVE TURNED INTO SOMETHING RESEMBLING YAKUZA, WHICH IS QUITE EMBARRASSING, I MUST SAY.

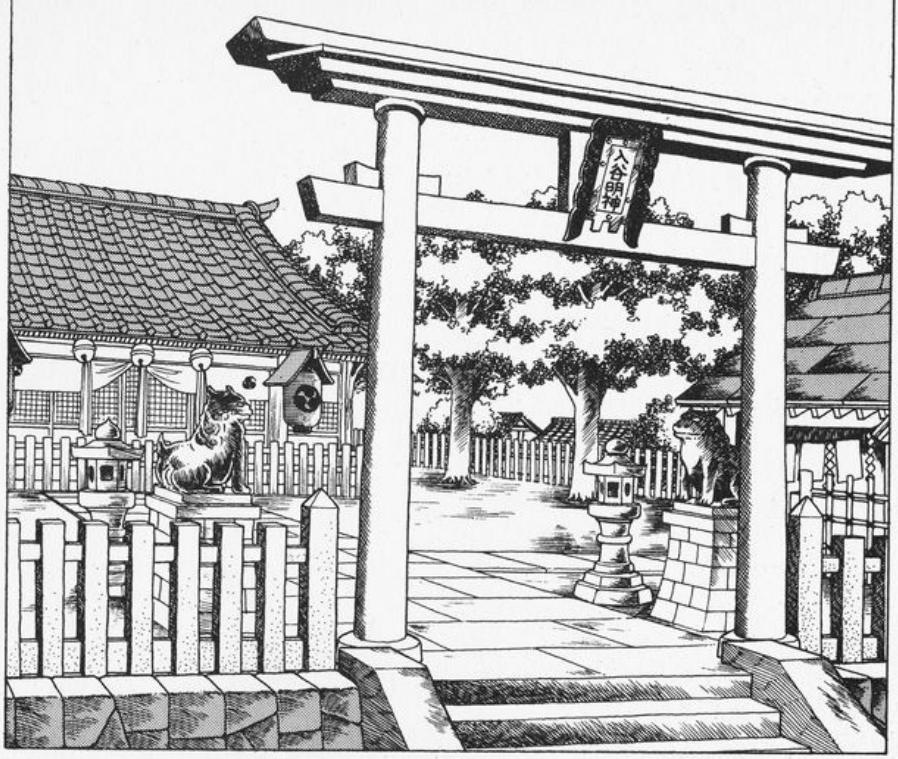
SEE, A PAWNSHOP IS DIFFERENT FROM A GAMBLER OR A YAKUZA. WE'RE NOT CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH.

WELL, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THOSE WHO RUN BIG SHOPS OR WORK IN COMPANIES, I MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED A RESPECTABLE MEMBER OF SOCIETY, BUT I'VE NEVER CAUSED HARM TO ANYONE IN THE COMMUNITY.

THROUGHOUT JAPAN, THERE'S A FESTIVAL OR FAIR HAPPENING SOMEWHERE EVERY SINGLE DAY OF THE YEAR. IN SUCH PLACES, I'VE BEEN RUNNING A SMALL BUT HONEST BUSINESS, MAKING A LIVING AND GETTING BY.

HEY THERE, FOODIE 4!

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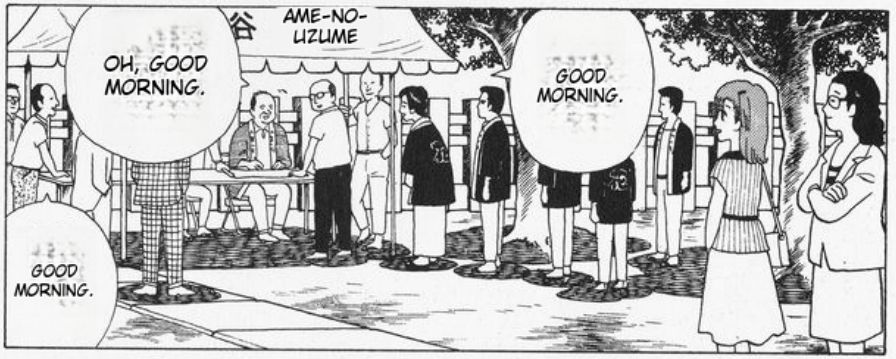
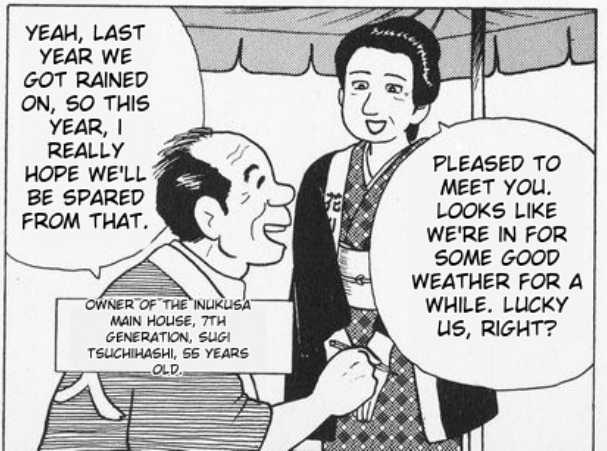
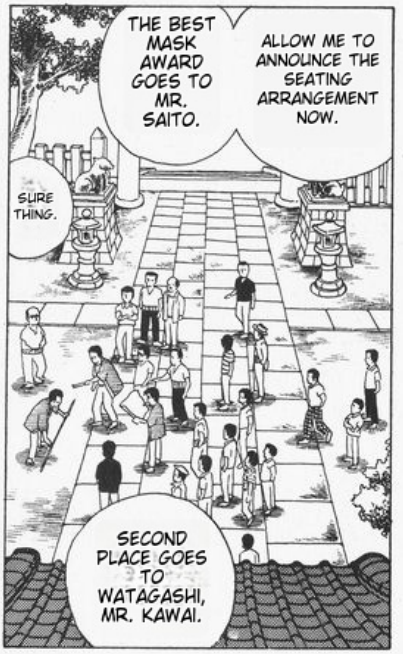

AME-NO-UZUME
OH, GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.

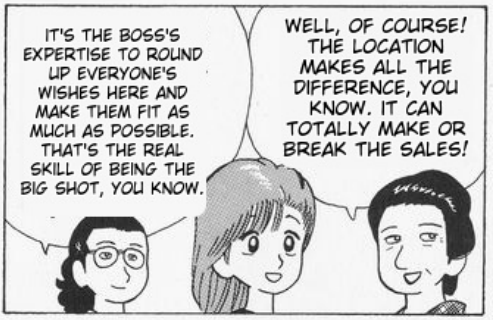
HEHE, GOOD MORNING.


YEAH, LAST YEAR WE GOT RAINED ON, SO THIS YEAR, I REALLY HOPE WE'LL BE SPARED FROM THAT.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR SOME GOOD WEATHER FOR A WHILE. LUCKY US, RIGHT?
OWNER OF THE INUKUSA MAIN HOUSE, 7TH GENERATION, SUGI TSUCHIHASHI, 55 YEARS OLD.

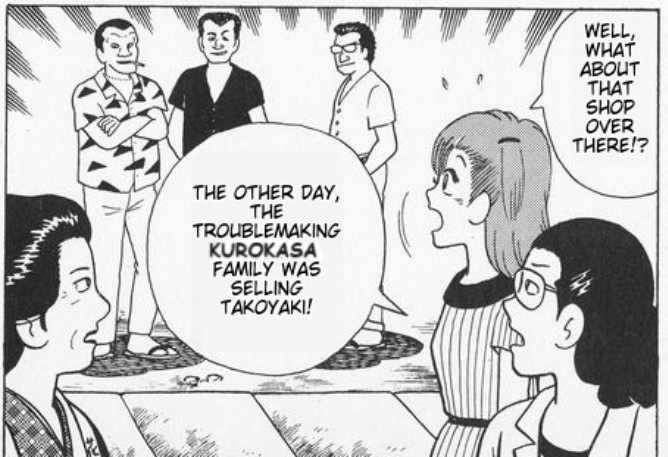
HEY THERE, FOODIE 4!

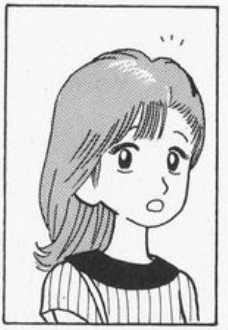
IT'S INTENSE IN HERE, ISN'T IT?


THE BEST MASK AWARD GOES TO MR. SAITO.
ALLOW ME TO ANNOUNCE THE SEATING ARRANGEMENT NOW.
SURE THING.
SECOND PLACE GOES TO WATAGASHI, MR. KAWAI.


IT'S THE BOSS'S EXPERTISE TO ROUND UP EVERYONE'S WISHES HERE AND MAKE THEM FIT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THAT'S THE REAL SKILL OF BEING THE BIG SHOT, YOU KNOW.
WELL, OF COURSE! THE LOCATION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE, YOU KNOW. IT CAN TOTALLY MAKE OR BREAK THE SALES!

HEY, THIS IS THE SPOT FOR TAKOYAKI, NOT BAD AT ALL, RIGHT?

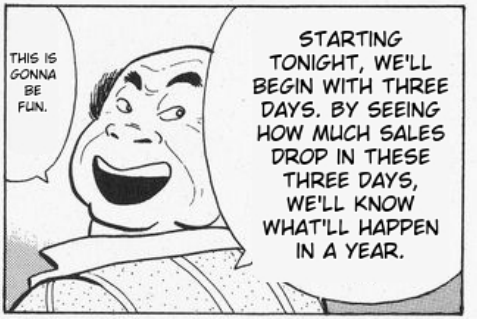

WELL, WHAT ABOUT THAT SHOP OVER THERE!?
THE OTHER DAY, THE TROUBLEMAKING KUROKASA FAMILY WAS SELLING TAKOYAKI!



HEY, 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4.

HEHEHE. IF YOU GO UNDER, THE TERRITORY OF SUMIDA JIZO WILL NATURALLY BECOME MINE, AS I'VE BEEN MAKING CONNECTIONS HERE AND THERE.
WE'VE GOT SAVINGS, AND INCOME SOURCES BEYOND THE STALL. SO, EVEN IF SALES DROP A BIT, IT'S NO BIGGIE FOR US. BUT FOR YOU, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY, AIN'T IT? IF YOU KEEP THIS UP FOR A YEAR, YOU'LL GO UNDER, WON'T YOU?

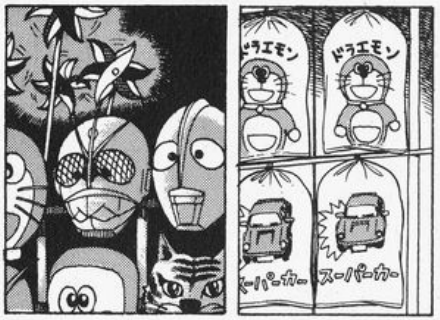
YOU SCOUNDREL!
YOU SCOUNDREL, YOU DIRTY TRICKSTER!

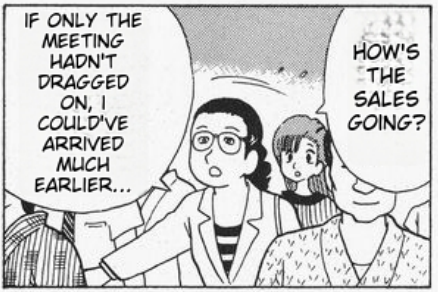

THIS IS GONNA BE FUN.
STARTING TONIGHT, WE'LL BEGIN WITH THREE DAYS. BY SEEING HOW MUCH SALES DROP IN THESE THREE DAYS, WE'LL KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IN A YEAR.

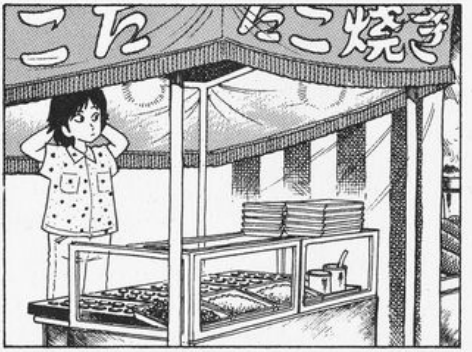
WE MUST WIN AT ALL COSTS IN THE SALES COMPETITION!

THIS IS SERIOUS! IT'LL BE A HUGE BLOW IF THAT HAPPENS!

HEY, 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4.







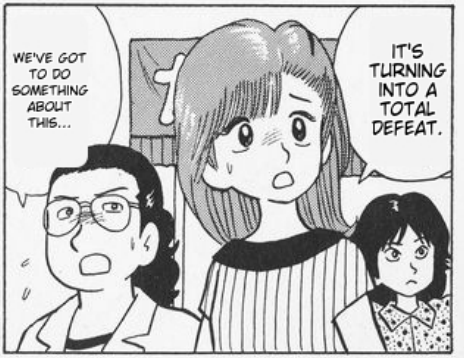
明石のたこ
OUR TAKOYAKI IS ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL, MADE WITH AUTHENTIC OCTOPUS FROM AKASHI, THE TASTE IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!!
BEHOLD, TAKOYAKI STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART OF OSAKA!
HA
キャー!
THANKS A LOT!
HEY, THANKS A BUNCH!
CLICK
HEY, I WANNA GET ME SOME OF THAT TAKOYAKI OVER THERE!
I AIN'T SETTLING FOR ANY TAKOYAKI THAT AIN'T FROM TAKO-CHAN'S JOINT!

AT THIS RATE, WE'RE DONE FOR...
EMPHASIZING THE OCTOPUS FROM AKASHI, BOASTING ABOUT AUTHENTIC TAKOYAKI, AND USING A PLUSH OCTOPUS AS A PROP, NOW THAT'S CLEVER.

GAH... NGH!
花川一家
花川一家

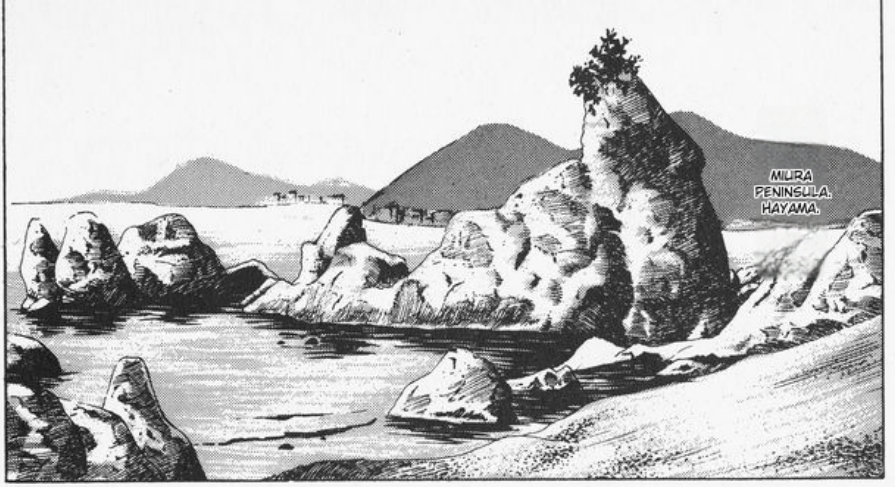
OH, AUNTIE.
THE BOSS OVER THERE TOO...

IT'S CLEAR WHO'S WINNING ON THE FIRST DAY.
HEH HEH HEH... LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BOOMING WHILE YOU'RE AS QUIET AS A MOUSE.

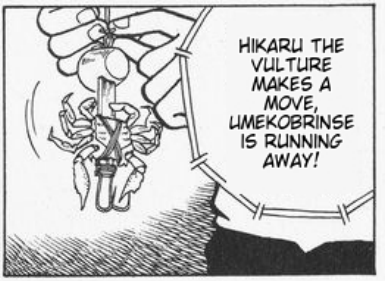

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...
IT'S TURNING INTO A TOTAL DEFEAT.

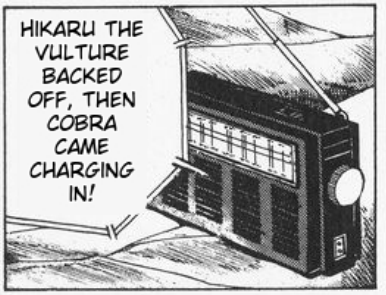
ドン
IT'S NOT ABOUT WORK, I NEED YOUR HELP.
WHAT'S UP? IT'S A SACRED HOLIDAY TODAY, SO I AIN'T GOING TO WORK FOR ANYTHING. WHATEVER URGENT MATTER YOU HAVE, COUNT ME OUT.
YOU'RE LATE FOR WORK, BUT YOU MAKE SURE TO ARRIVE ON TIME FOR THE FIRST RACE AT THE RACETRACK, HUH.
...I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN FEUDS BETWEEN RIVALS LIKE THEM.

HMPH, WHO WANTS TO SEE IT ANYWAY? BETTING ON RACES IS FUN WHEN YOU FIGURE IT OUT WITH YOUR OWN REASONING, NOT RELYING ON OTHERS' PREDICTIONS.
IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE, I WON'T SHOW YOU.
HUH?
HE MADE PREDICTIONS FROM THE FIRST RACE TO THE FINAL RACE TODAY.
YOU REMEMBER MY HIGH SCHOOL HOMEROOM TEACHER, RIGHT? THE HORSE RACING EXPERT, MS. MAGAKI.
I'M IN A HURRY, I NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN BY EVENING.
DON'T GET SO WORKED UP.
FINE, I'LL ASK SOMEONE ELSE FOR HELP.
OH... I THOUGHT YOU'D JUMP AT IT WITHOUT CONDITIONS...
REALLY!?
AND BESIDES, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO USE PEOPLE'S PREDICTIONS AS RESEARCH MATERIAL.
WHAT? AKASHI'S OCTOPUS FEAST? NO WAY, THAT'S GOTTA BE A LIE! AKASHI'S OCTOPUS IS SO RARE THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN GET ONE-FIFTH OF IT FROM THE OLD DAYS, IT'S SUPER EXPENSIVE! THERE'S NO WAY IT'S USED FOR STREET STALL TAKOYAKI. IT MUST BE FROZEN OCTOPUS IMPORTED FROM SPAIN OR SOMEWHERE.
FINE, BUT IT'S JUST TAKOYAKI, OKAY?
IF YOU USE REAL DELICIOUS OCTOPUS, YOU CAN WIN.


MIURA PENINSULA, HAYAMA.

.....
COBRA'S HERE, COBRA'S STRIKING, COBRA TAKES THE LEAD! HIKARU THE VULTURE IN SECOND, THE EXACTA'S A WILD MIX AT THREE AND EIGHT!


HIKARU THE VULTURE MAKES A MOVE, UMEKOBRINSE IS RUNNING AWAY!


HIKARU THE VULTURE BACKED OFF, THEN COBRA CAME CHARGING IN!

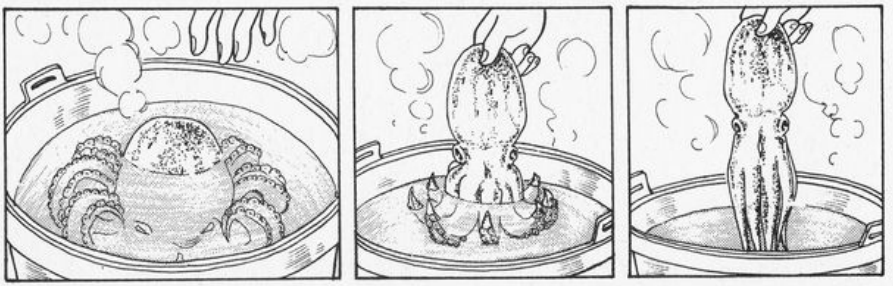
BUT THIS IS A GAME OF WITS...
UGHH! I CAN'T BELIEVE I TRUSTED A WOMAN'S PREDICTIONS, CAN'T FORGIVE MY OWN STUPIDITY!!

DARN IT!! WHAT KIND OF HORSE RACING EXPERT ARE YOU? YOUR TEACHER'S PREDICTIONS WERE ALL OFF THE MARK, WEREN'T THEY!?
THIS IS WEIRD...

......
IT'S A GIANT OCTOPUS, WHOA!!
DID YOU CATCH SOMETHING!?
SQUEE! IT'S PULLING ME IN TOO!!
REEL IT IN, QUICKLY!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME!?
WHOA, IT'S A BIG ONE!
EWW, THIS IS SO GROSS!!
YUCK!!
OH MY...

たこ焼き
TANIAMAGAMI
WELCOME!! JUST CAUGHT THIS LIVELY OCTOPUS A MOMENT AGO!

WE'LL COOK UP THIS FEISTY OCTOPUS AND SERVE IT FRESH RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!



HEY, 'OISHINBO' VOLUME 4.

AMAZING, WE DID IT!
AS YOU CAN SEE, AUNTIE, WE NEED MORE HANDS ON DECK FOR GRILLING. CAN WE CALL IN SOME REINFORCEMENTS?
HOW ABOUT TRYING SOME OVER HERE?
OH, THE KUROKASA FAMILY IS NECK AND NECK WITH US IN SALES! BUT IT'S ALL ABOUT THIS TAKOYAKI SHOWDOWN NOW!
HOW ARE THE OTHER SHOPS DOING?
THAT'S RIGHT. AKASHI OCTOPUS IS IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN COMPARED TO THOSE FROZEN IMITATIONS. WE'RE TALKING THE REAL DEAL HERE!
HEY, PASS SOME OVER HERE TOO!
HEY, WE'RE IN LINE HERE!
UH, NOT SO GOOD...
LOOKS LIKE KASAMORI-SAN MISSED THE MARK.
IT'S THE OCTOPUS, YOU KNOW. THE FLAVOR IS JUST DIFFERENT, RICH AND FRAGRANT, WITH A NICE CRUNCH!
THIS TAKOYAKI IS SO DELICIOUS! I HAD NO IDEA IT COULD BE THIS GOOD!

.....
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I LOST... BUT HEY, BIG BOSS LADY FROM KANTO, KEEP ON FIGHTING, WILL YA?
HEHE...
THANKS TO YOU, MY AUNT'S REPUTATION SOARED HIGH! NO ONE'S GONNA MESS WITH HER ANYMORE.
THIS VICTORY TASTES LIKE THE REAL DEAL, ALL THANKS TO MR. YAMAOKA.
OH, REALLY? THAT'S QUITE A TALE! EVERYONE REALLY PULLED THROUGH, HUH?

- "OISHINBO" VOLUME 4, THE END -

美味(おい)しんぼ4 —食卓の広がり—

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